

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2009  
4:00 P.M. AT COURT HOUSE**

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The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Stuart followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Clerk Bowden: "The notice of the requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law has been satisfied by forwarding a "News Release" to the Asbury Park Press on December 10, 2008 stating that the reorganization meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held on January 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., Colts Neck Court House, 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and a copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk."

Roll call by Mr. Bowden indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Hennessy , Deputy Mayor Forester, Committeemembers Stuart, Florek and Schatzle

Also Present: Administrator/Municipal Clerk Robert Bowden; Deputy Municipal Clerk Beth Kara, and Township Attorney Sen. John O. Bennett, III, Esq.

Absent: None

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1. **WELCOME BY MAYOR THOMAS E. HENNESSY, JR.:** Mayor Stuart welcomed all present, including Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande, Freeholder Director Lillian Burry; Committeemembers-elect Edward Eastman and Jarrett Engel and Reverend Scott Brown. Mayor Hennessy welcomed those present and noted how volunteers in public service improve the quality of life of all residents. Mayor Hennessy thanked the residents of Colts Neck for their support during 2008, stating it has been an honor to serve. In closing, he thanked the Township Committee and wished them and the Committeemembers-elect all the best.
2. **INVOCATION:** Reverend Scott Brown of the Colts Neck Reformed Church was introduced and gave the invocation.
3. **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEEMAN EDWARD C. EASTMAN, JR.:** Mr. Bowden swore in Mr. Eastman, as his wife, Patricia, held the bible. Mr. Eastman was applauded and photographs were taken.

Mr. Eastman stated today is not a celebration of Jarrett or Ed, but a celebration of nine years of public service by Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart. Mr. Eastman commented Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart have done a good job, and he thanked them for service to the community. Mr. Eastman commented the community would not be what it is without its volunteers, and he thanked the many volunteers for their many hours of service.

4. **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEEMAN JARRETT R. ENGEL:** Mr. Bowden swore in Mr. Engel, as his wife, Jennifer, held the bible and his daughters, Charlotte and Emma Hayes observed. Mr. Engel was applauded and photographs were taken.

Mr. Engel thanked those for being here today, stating it was less about him and more about Colts Neck. Mr. Engel spoke of giving back to the community and the decisions made are done consistently with the best interests of the residents in mind. Mr. Engel noted the uniqueness of the community and that he aspires to learn from the seasoned professionals on the Governing Body.

5. **OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR – 2009:** Mayor Hennessy opened nominations for Mayor 2009. Mr. Florek made a motion to nominate Mr. Benjamin T. Forester for Mayor 2009, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried. Mayor Hennessy closed the nominations for Mayor 2009.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Hennessy			X			
Forester			X			
Florek	M		X			
Schatzle		S	X			
Stuart			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

Mr. Bowden swore in Mr. Forester as Mayor 2009, as his granddaughter, Lauren Alagna, and two grandsons, Logan and Zach, held the bible. Mayor Hennessy stepped down and relinquished his chair.

6. **PRESENTATION OF GAVELS:** Former Mayor Hennessy presented Mayor Forester with his gavel. Mayor Forester presented former Mayor Hennessy with his gavel. Everyone applauded and photographs were taken.
7. **REMARKS OF MAYOR FORESTER:** Mayor Forester's remarks are appended to these minutes in full.
8. **OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR DEPUTY MAYOR 2009:** Mayor Forester opened nominations for Deputy Mayor 2009. Mr. Schatzle stated he was proud to nominate Kenneth F. Florek as Deputy Mayor 2009, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester			X			
Florek			X			
Schatzle	M		X			
Eastman			X			
Engel		S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

Mr. Bowden swore in Deputy Mayor Florek. Everyone applauded and photographs were taken.

9. **PRESENTATIONS TO FORMER COMMITTEEMEN HENNESSY AND STUART**

- **Mayor Forester:** Mayor Forester stated he was proud to present Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart with engraved plaques on behalf of the Township Committee noting their years of service on the Governing Body. Mayor Forester thanked both men on behalf of the Township Committee and the residents of Colts Neck.
- **Freeholder Director Lillian G. Burry, Monmouth County:** Freeholder Director Burry stated it was an honor to be present recognizing Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart on their nine years of service to the Community. Mrs. Burry congratulated Messrs. Eastman and Engel on joining the Governing Body. Mrs. Burry spoke of her work with Mr. Stuart on the Farmland Preservation Program and noted she is pleased Mr. Stuart is a member of the Monmouth County Planning Board. Mrs. Burry spoke of Mr. Hennessy's contribution to the community in the areas of the environment and recreation activities, noting he brings the same zeal to the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners as one of its members. Freeholder Director Burry read each Certificate of Recognition from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders for Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart, noting January 4, 2009 is

declared in the archives of the County of Monmouth as James Stuart Day and Thomas E. Hennessy, Jr. Day.

- Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) James Sfayer: Lt. Col. Sfayer spoke of the meaning of the Oath of Office. He then presented Messrs. Hennessy and Stuart with flags flown at Town Hall in their honor.

10. **REMARKS BY FORMER COMMITTEEMAN STUART**: Mr. Stuart stated this is a bittersweet moment. During the past nine years, he experienced more than he ever dreamed and thanked all that he served with during this time. Mr. Stuart noted he gained a deeper understanding and respect of the position. Mr. Stuart relayed his personal gratitude to Mr. Bowden and his staff, and to his wife, Patricia, for her unending support. Mr. Stuart stated he leaves office knowing Colts Neck is in good hands, and he thanked the citizens for electing him to this position.

11. **REMARKS BY FORMER COMMITTEEMAN HENNESSY**: Mr. Hennessy thanked those for his treasured keepsakes. Mr. Hennessy expressed his appreciation to the Township Committee for the opportunity to serve as Mayor this past year and to the citizens of Colts Neck for providing him the privilege to serve for the past nine years. Mr. Hennessy expressed the honor of representing the community as it welcomed George W. Bush to the Township and during his visits to the Nation's capital to fight the Department of Defense and the Department of Navy over Earle housing. Mr. Hennessy wished the Governing Body all the best.

12. **REMARKS BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLYN CASAGRANDE**: Assemblywoman Casagrande bid farewell to her two friends on the Township Committee, Thom Hennessy and Jim Stuart. She stated she is proud to be a Colts Neck resident, noting this town is not like any other town in the State. Ms. Casagrande spoke of the challenges ahead for the Governing Body and noted they must be creative in dealing with overextended budgets, unemployment, and reduced State aid. Assemblywoman Casagrande noted Colts Neck is distinct from other municipalities in that it follows zero based budgeting wherein each budget line item must be justified for inclusion in the annual budget. She noted Colts Neck's flawless bond rating and its pay as you go philosophy. The challenges ahead are proper land use planning, COAH and NWS Earle housing. Assemblywoman Casagrande stated the good news is that Colts Neck seems to get it right, and in closing, she indicated she is willing and able to help in the year ahead.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENT**: Mayor Forester announced the Township Committee Liaison Assignments for 2009, which are appended to these minutes.

14. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**: Mayor Forester announced the following appointments:

**PLANNING BOARD**

CLASS I – BENJAMIN T. FORESTER	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)
CLASS II – EDWARD THOMPSON	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)
CLASS III – KENNETH F. FLOREK	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)
CLASS IV – RICHARD MALINOWSKI	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
CLASS IV – BROOK CROSSAN	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
ALTERNATE NO. 2 – JOSEPH POWELL	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/10)

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

EDWARD SOBIESKI	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
ALBERT YODAKIS	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
ROBERT HESSLEIN (ALTERNATE NO. 2)	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/10)

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MAYOR APPOINTS DAVID KOSTKA AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2009.

SASHE ANNETE  
JOHN VIG

(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)  
(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

HENRY HAMOND  
BENJAMIN O'NEILL  
STEPHEN F. MARX

(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)

15. **RESOLUTION 2009-1:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III PLANNING BOARD MEMBER – DEPUTY MAYOR FLOREK was read in full by Mayor Forester. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eastman and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman	S	X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

16. **RESOLUTION 2009-2** – CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP PROFESSIONALS was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

- John O. Bennett, III, Esq., Township Attorney;
- John O. Bennett, III, Esq., Township Prosecutor;
- Dilworth Paxson, LLC, Bond Counsel;
- Glenn Gerken, P.E., Township Engineer;
- Robert Allison, Auditor;
- Peter Avakian, P.E., Conflict Engineer;
- Carmine Villani, Esq., Public Defender;
- Matthew Giacobbe, Esq., Labor Counsel;
- Michael Steib, Esq., Special Counsel;
- Visiting Nurse Association, Home Health Services;
- Associated Humane, Animal Control Services;
- Dominic Manco, Esq., Special Counsel, Affordable Housing;
- Brian Molloy, Esq., Special Counsel, Earle Housing; and
- Julie McGowan, Landscape Architect, Inspection Escrows.

Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	M	X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

17. **RESOLUTION 2009-3** – CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

- RICHARD MALINOWSKI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- MARIO SESSA (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- THOMAS MORIN (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/10)
- JAMES STUART (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eastman and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle		X			
Eastman	S	X			
Engel	M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

18. **RESOLUTION 2009-4:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE was read in full by Mayor Forester, which is as follows:

- JAMES VALENTI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- FRANK BAKER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- EDWARD PIOTROWSKI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- PHILIP MAIDA (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- PAUL WILD (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/10)

By this resolution, Mayor Forester appointed Mr. James Valenti as Chair for the 2009 year. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	M	X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

19. **RESOLUTION 2009-5:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

- PEGGY JOLINE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- TONI MORELLO (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Florek and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	S	X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

20. **RESOLUTION 2009-6:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

1. JANE DAVIS (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
2. DR. JENNIFER ENGEL (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
3. MARY FOURNIER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
4. ANN RIPPA (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)

Mr. Eastman made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle, carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Schatzle and Eastman; Mr. Engel abstained.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Eastman	M	X			
Engel				X	
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

21. **RESOLUTION 2009-7:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

1. DONNA FLOOD (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
2. DR. GORDON BOAK (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)
3. PAM SOKOLER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/09)

Mr. Schatzle stated he is happy to have two physicians on the Board and then made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

22. **RESOLUTION 2009-7A:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE was read in full by Mayor Forester, which are as follows:

- MICHAEL BURKE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)
- FRANK VALENTINO (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/11)

Mr. Schatzle commented with the blackout that occurred several weeks ago, he is happy two new members are being appointed so this committee may better prepare for emergencies. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	M	X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

23. **RESOLUTION 2009-8:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS, THOMAS E. HENNESSY, JR., was read by title by Mayor Forester. Committeeman Schatzle spoke on behalf of the Township Committee's decision to appoint Mr. Hennessy to the Director's position, which is appended to these minutes. Mayor Forester then opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Vince Scotti, a resident, spoke of a petition he is circulating to withhold the filling of the Director of Recreation and Parks position. Mr. Scotti stated the petition seeks researching the feasibility of a volunteer Director position, the use of shared services, and the rationale for making this a full-time position. Mr. Scotti stated this is not an issue about Mr. Hennessy, but an issue that should be discussed during the budget process.

Mayor Forester thanked Mr. Scotti for his comments and questioned whether those signing the petition were given both sides of the issue. Mayor Forester stated the Asbury Park Press editorial was not responsible, the facts were not researched and it was unwarranted. Mayor Forester then provided background for the issue, the steps taken by the Governing Body and the rationale for filling this position on a full-time basis with Mr. Hennessy.

Ms. Kathy Gizzo, a resident, spoke of the filling of the Recreation Director position and the hiring process for this position.

Ms. Rose Ann Scotti, a resident, asked that the filling of the position of Recreation Director be held off until the budget process was completed. She also suggested options for Governing Body consideration in reducing the upcoming year's budget requests. Ms. Scotti stated she planned to attend this year's budget hearings.

Ms. Elaine Mann, a resident, stated when government fears people, it's liberty; when people fear government, it's tyranny.

Mr. Frank Ryan, a resident, asked if the Recreation Director position has benefits, to which Mayor Forester responded yes.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Forester closed the meeting to public comment. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester			X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	M		X			
Schatzle		S	X			
Eastman			X			
Engel			X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded						

24. Mayor Forester then recognized Deputy Fire Chief Michael Romano and First Aid Captain Michael Spinella and thanked them for their service.
25. Mr. Bowden then performed a group swearing in of all newly appointed persons. All received a round of applause and group photos were taken.
26. **MOTION TO ADOPT A CONSENT AGENDA:** The following resolutions were read by title by Mayor Forester:
27. **\*RESOLUTION 2009-9:** CONFIRMING DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL DEPOSITORIES.
28. **\*RESOLUTION 2009-10** – AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2009 TEMPORARY BUDGET.
29. **\*RESOLUTION 2009-11:** AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES, PENALTIES AND INTEREST RATES FOR 2009.
30. **\*RESOLUTION 2009-12:** AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO PRE-PAY CERTAIN VOUCHERS, WHEN REQUIRED.

31. \***RESOLUTION 2009-13**: APPROVING COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN.
32. \***RESOLUTION 2009-14**: CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN).
33. \***RESOLUTION 2009-15**: CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE OFFICER (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN).
34. \***RESOLUTION 2009-16**: CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF MID-JERSEY JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN).
35. \***RESOLUTION 2009-17**: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP NEWSPAPER (ASBURY PARK PRESS).
36. \***RESOLUTION 2009-18**: APPROVING USE OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER FOR TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Schatzle and Engle; Mr. Eastman abstained from the two figures relating to the Police budget in Resolution 2009-10, and carried all other resolutions.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek	M	X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Eastman		X		X	
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded					

37. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**: Mayor Forester then opened the meeting to public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Forester closed the meeting to public comment.
38. **MAYOR'S CLOSING COMMENTS**: Mayor Forester invited all present to attend a light reception he is hosting in the Colts Neck Library immediately following this afternoon's meeting.
39. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT** was made by Mr. Schatzle, seconded by Mr. Eastman and unanimously carried by voice vote.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman	S	X			
Engel		X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded					

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

  
Robert Bowden, Township Administrator/Clerk

Attachments 3

Comments of  
Mayor Benjamin T. Forester

Reorganization

January 4, 2009

I would first like to thank the Township Committee for allowing me the honor and privilege to serve as Mayor this year, and also take the opportunity to wish all Colts Neck residents, family, friends and honored guests to a very Happy New Year.

I would like to thank former Committeemen Thom Hennessey and Jim Stuart for their nine years of service to the Community as elected officials. We will honor them shortly with more formal presentations.

I would also like to congratulate and welcome newly sworn Committeemen Edward Eastman and Jarrett Engel to the Township Committee. Their strong professional backgrounds will be invaluable as we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The following are just some of the important issues that will affect our community this year:

Earle Housing

As most residents are aware, the Township Committee has been working hard for over four years to oppose the Navy's plan to place 300 homes within the base into the Community. This unwavering opposition will continue this year. As it stands now, the Navy recently conducted a public hearing at Monmouth Regional High School regarding the draft Environmental Impact Statement that was released on the housing situation. Some 30 persons spoke at this hearing, all in opposition to the Navy's plans.

The public comment period remains open until January 23, 2009, and the Township Committee urges all elected representatives, citizens groups and residents to follow up their public comments with written opposition to the Navy's misguided plans.

### Affordable Housing

Just days ago, the Township submitted its mandatory Affordable Housing Plan to the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) in Trenton. Under new rules promulgated last year by COAH, the Township was obligated to provide for 67 homes for low and moderate income families by 2018. The 67 number was generated based on estimates of new homes and new jobs that will be built or created within the Township. In general the 67 obligation has been satisfied by expected affordable units being built within new subdivisions, or utilization of places such as the Meridian Academy School or Colts Neck Inn Hotel. Also, if housing or job estimates are less than projected, the affordable housing obligation could be much less.

The Township Committee will continue to closely monitor the review of the Township's Plan by COAH in the coming months.

### Revaluation

In 2007 the Township Committee awarded a \$299,000 contract to Realty Appraisal to perform a full appraisal of all properties within the Township. This project was delayed a full year while the State reviewed and finally approved the Township tax maps.

This project is once again set to move forward, and all residents should receive an explanatory letter of how the revaluation process works in the near future.

Once field work is complete and preliminary assessments determined, residents will have a full opportunity to meet and discuss their assessments with professionals from the revaluation

firm or Township Tax Assessor. It is expected that the new Assessments will become effective in 2010.

### 2009 Budget/Finances

The financial condition of the Township remains very strong and the Township Committee takes its financial responsibilities very seriously. Tax collections remains near 99 percent, the credit and bond rating was recently re-examined and remains at Aa3 by Moody's, and the Township debt ratio is very low.

The Township Committee will soon begin work on the 2009 budget. The Township Committee utilizes a zero-based budget format, whereby every appropriation must be fully explained and justified each year. Likewise, the Township Committee fully analyzes the revenue side of the budget to be sure investments and other revenues are maximized to the fullest extent possible. Residents are fully encouraged to attend and participate in the budget process. Meetings for this purpose will likely start in mid to late February.

In conclusion, this is just as sampling of the issues that are important to the citizens and the Township of Colts Neck this year. Each will be decided on their own merits by the collective judgment of the entire Township Committee. To this end, I am proud to serve with such an esteemed group of Township Committeemembers that share no other purpose than to make this wonderful community an even better place tomorrow than it was yesterday.

Thank you all very much.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009

MAYOR FORESTER

Planning Board – Class I  
Police  
Public Works  
Buildings and Grounds  
Long Range Planning  
Revaluation  
Local/Regional Schools  
Earle Housing Litigation  
Earle Naval Base  
Senior Citizens

DEPUTY MAYOR FLOREK

Planning Board – Class III  
Recreation  
Sports Foundation  
Fire Department  
Litigation Steering Committee  
Affordable Housing  
Revaluation  
Recycling

COMMITTEEMAN SCHATZLE

Finance  
Earle Housing Litigation  
Emergency Planning Committee  
Colts Neck Polo  
Board of Health  
Long Range Planning  
Local/Regional Schools  
Shared Services  
Student Government Day

COMMITTEEMAN EASTMAN

Finance  
Shade Tree Commission  
Farmland/Open Space Committee  
Horse/Multi-Use Trails  
Litigation Steering Committee  
Affordable Housing  
County Government  
Historic Preservation Committee

COMMITTEEMAN ENGEL

First Aid Squad  
Environmental Commission  
Architectural Review Committee  
Drug/Alcohol Alliance  
Colts Neck Website  
Colts Neck Fair  
Friends of the Library  
Pop Warner Football

January 4, 2009

Remarks from Jim Schatzle on Vote for Director of Recreation & Parks

### **Change – the process of becoming different**

During my 2 years on the Township Committee I have been presented the task (along with the rest of the Committee) of filling two Department Head Employees. Any change in personnel presents several challenges and questions; do we need to change the position?, can this job be entered into a shared service agreement?, can the job be eliminated without a loss of service? These questions were evaluated and debated over several meetings and hours of discussion and research.

Most recently the Director of Recreations and Parks position opened up with the retirement of Dr. Nolan – after more than 29 years on the job. After reviewing several years worth of memos from the Recreation and Public Works Departments the choice was made to move the Recreation Director Position to from part time to Full time. Now comes the most difficult part – hiring the right person to fit the job and the “culture” of the Township. I knew the task of filling Dr. Nolan’s position was a difficult one since he has served the Township well for so long. How to fill almost 30 years of Colts Neck Experience?

### **Serendipity – the effect by which one accidentally discovers something fortunate.**

When Thom Hennessy first announced an interest in the position it was a surprise and I was excited to know that we had an individual with years (over 30) of Colts Neck Recreation experience and someone that knows the culture and workings of the Town. In addition to Thom showing an interest in the position several other Colts Neck residents submitted letters of interest. I was pleased that we had such a group to choose from.

### **Timing – the spacing of events**

After several meetings and hours worth of discussion it was decided that Thom was the best fit for the job (as stated by the Mayors remarks). Please do not think for a moment that the timing and the fact that Thom was on the Township Committee did not get discussed. I feel strongly that choosing the right person for the job is more important than how someone may perceive the situation and come to conclusions with out knowing all the facts. I am always open and willing to listen to any Colts Neck resident on any subject. I appreciate those that contacted me in regard to this position and value their input.