

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2009  
7:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL**

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The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Forester followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Clerk Bowden: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by forwarding a News Release to the Asbury Park Press on December 10, 2008 stating that the meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held on March 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., Colts Neck Town Hall, 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 Forester, Deputy Mayor Florek, Committeemembers Schatzle, and Engel; Committeeman Eastman (arriving late)

Also Present: Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Robert Bowden; Deputy Municipal Clerk, Beth Kara; Legal Counsel, Chris Ackerman, Esq.

Absent: None

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Mr. Bowden advised Mr. Eastman was out of town this evening on business and may arrive later tonight.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Mayor Forester advised the April 8, 2009 Township Committee meeting has been rescheduled to April 15, 2009 due to Passover.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:** Mayor Forester presented his comments regarding the 2009 Municipal budget, a copy of which is appended. Mayor Forester noted many challenges faced the Township Committee preparing this year's budget, noting while the 2009 budget is dollar-to-dollar less than last year, the loss of revenues, particularly State aid, resulted in a minimal one cent tax increase. Mayor Forester noted the public hearing for the 2009 budget will be held April 29, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Colts Neck Town Hall.
3. **RESOLUTION 2009-52:** APPROVING INTRODUCTION OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mayor Forester stated the General Appropriation is \$10,717,000.31; the Dedicated Open Space Tax is \$363,448.65, totaling \$11,080,448.96. The amount to be raised by taxation in support of the 2009 municipal budget is \$4,944,688.99. The public hearing will be conducted April 29, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 124 Cedar Drive. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

<b>RECORD OF VOTE</b>						
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						

4. **RESOLUTION 2009-53:** AUTHORIZING SELF-EXAMINATION OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mayor Forester stated per authorization by the Local Finance Board, municipalities in sound fiscal condition may self-examine their municipal budget on alternate years. Based on the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the Township Committee found the 2009

budget has met all provisions promulgated by State statutes and local budget law. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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

5. **PRESENTATION: RELIEF OF RE-SUBDIVISION RESTRICTION, AS DEFINED IN MUNICIPAL CODE; BLOCK 9, LOTS 2.01 AND 2.08; WILLOWBROOK ROAD/EVERGREEN LANE, (GUITIERREZ PROPERTY):** Mr. Edward Bedeck, Esq. provided the Township Committee with two detailed maps, one showing the existing lot layout and one showing the proposed lot layout after subdivision. The existing lot layout has 32 acres improved land and 16 acres farmland. The property owner is seeking re-sub-divide and change the lot line to have 16 acres improved land and 32 acres farmland, which would be more conducive to farming. Mr. Florek questioned if either lot is deed restricted, to which he was advised they are not. Mr. Bowden advised of the Township Planner's concerns, i.e., all surrounding lots have similar restrictions and this decision may be precedent setting, and the increased farm area might allow for intensification of use. Mayor Forester requested the issue be tabled to give the Governing Body time to converse with Mr. Anfuso; the Governing Body concurred. Mr. Bowden advised Mr. Anfuso would be addressing the Township Committee at one of its May meetings, at which time this issue can be addressed. Mayor Forester opened the meeting to public comment; hearing none, the meeting was closed.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2009.** Mr. Schatzle made a revision to Page 2. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, as amended, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent

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					

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2009.** Mr. Florek made revisions to Page 1, first paragraph, and Page 3, second paragraph. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, as amended, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent

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					

8. **ORDINANCE 2009-3:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK ("TOWNSHIP") TO VACATE AN EXISTING EASEMENT FOR CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE, DRAINAGE AND UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ACCEPT A DEED OF EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE AND UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT WITH A RESERVED ACCESS EASEMENT THROUGH A PORTION OF BLOCK 29, LOT 9 ON THE COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP TAX MAP was read by title at first reading by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated this ordinance resulted from the Township Committee's decision during its meeting of March 11, 2009, to approve the construction of a driveway and improvements associated with a proposed residence on Bluebell Road. Mr. Florek stated he concurs with the proposed placement of the driveway. With no further comments, Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent. Mayor Forester set the date for public hearing April 29, 2009.

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					

9. **RESOLUTION 2009-54:** CONFIRMING AND CERTIFYING LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP) CREDITS FOR 2008 FOR COLTS NECK FIRST AID SQUAD was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated, if approved, the resolution would be posted at the First Aid Squad for 30 days pursuant to law prior to crediting volunteers' LOSAP service for 2008. With no comments made, Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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

10. **RESOLUTION 2009-55:** CONFIRMING AND CERTIFYING LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP) CREDITS FOR 2008 FOR COLTS NECK FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND NO. 2 was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated, if approved, the resolution would be posted at Fire Company No. 1 and No. 2 for 30 days pursuant to law prior to crediting volunteers' LOSAP service for 2008. With no comments made, Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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

11. **RESOLUTION 2009-56:** A RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK FOR A REGIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT FOR RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE SERVICES was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated originally no costs were associated with participation in the Central Jersey Council of Government feasibility study. The Township has paid a \$300 membership fee, and this resolution authorizes participation and requires Colts Neck provide \$284 in matching funds for participation in the regional feasibility study grant. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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					

12. **RESOLUTION 2009-57:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF 2008 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated the Township received grant funding of approximately \$20,000, which offsets the recycling program costs and the printing of newsletters. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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

13. **RESOLUTION 2009-58:** AUTHORIZING MONMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO COMMISSION TO CONDUCT AERIAL SURVEILLANCE AND TREATMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated this resolution authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute a 2009 Aerial Surveillance and Treatment Program agreement with the Monmouth County Extermination Commission. The program would commence on or about April 1, 2009 and continue through November 30, 2009. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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					

14. **RESOLUTION 2009-59:** CONFIRMING 2009 PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT, MR. DOMINIC MANCO, ESQ., SPECIAL COUNSEL, AFFORDABLE HOUSING was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Florek stated the Township has been working with Mr. Manco for several years on its Westminster litigation and praised Mr. Manco for an excellent job. Mr. Florek stated Mr. Manco recently left a law firm to open his own practice. Since the Township exclusively dealt with Mr. Manco, this resolution would authorize a professional contract and continue this

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

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

15. **RESOLUTION 2009-60:** AUTHORIZING FORMAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS, 2008 BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated this would be the last transfer resolution for the 2008 budget year. Mr. Bowden stated \$11,000 was received as revenue from a Police car accident. The resolution authorizes \$11,000 to be transferred from Insurance, Employee Group Health, to Police Department, Other Expenses, to cover additional expenses. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Engel and Schatzle; Mr. Eastman was absent.

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					

16. **RESOLUTION 2009-61:** AMENDING 2009 TEMPORARY BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden stated this resolution is necessary since the 2009 Budget will not be adopted until the end of April, and the current temporary budget funds operations through March 31, 2009.

Mr. Eastman arrived at 8:15 p.m.

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

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

17. **DISCUSSION:** UNFINISHED BUSINESS - CRINE ROAD, DUTCH LANE ROAD AND HEULITT ROAD INTERSECTION, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. Mr. Schatzle reported of the eight additional comments received during the recent Routes 537/34 Public Information Center recently held at Town Hall, five were in favor of the roundabout, one was in favor of Alternative 1, and two were against the roundabout alternative, and suggested the least costly alternative. Mr. Schatzle stated based on the presentation and recommendations of the County Engineer, the roundabout is the safest alternative and the one he supports. Mr. Florek concurred in supporting the roundabout alternative, noting the current sight line is not sufficient, and the roundabout design does make provision for large trucks. Mayor Forester stated he is not in favor of the roundabout, as it will detract from the beauty of Colts Neck. Mr. Eastman stated he is in favor of

doing nothing; however, if something must be done, he favors Alternative 1. Mayor Forester agreed with Mr. Eastman. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve the roundabout, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Florek, Schatzle and Engel; Messrs. Forester and Eastman opposed; the roundabout 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					

18. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Mr. Bowden stated there is a short window to order Police cruisers. As discussed during the 2009 budget process, the Township is seeking to purchase two Chargers. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the purchase of two Dodge Chargers for the Police Department, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Forester, Florek, Schatzle and Engel; Mr. Eastman abstained.

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

Mr. Bowden advised the Soccer Player Development and Monmouth County Hispanic Soccer League seeks a permit for a Mariachis Band at the April 12<sup>th</sup> inauguration of the soccer league at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Bowden advised this group does have a field permit issued by the Recreation Department. Mr. Florek noted there was no time stated on the permit, and expressed concern about trash clean up after the event. Mr. Eastman stated more trash receptacles should be placed in the area to avoid litter in the bushes. Mr. Bowden stated the restrictions of the permit could be worked out by the Recreation Director to include a time limit and litter control. In addition, if problems are encountered this year, next year no permits will be issued. All concurred via voice consent.

Mr. Bowden reported the Township's Affordable Housing Plan is deemed complete by COAH, and the 45 day process commences.

Mr. Bowden stated the Township is seeking State aid to fund a road project and asked the Governing Body if they wanted to submit Heyers Mill Road from Route 537 to Flock Road. The Township Committee concurred.

19. **MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHERS:** Mr. Schatzle reported he reviewed the vouchers, noting all were in order, and are as follows:

Animal Control	\$603.94
COAH	\$2,937.50
Construction Trust	\$10,631.78
Current Fund	\$246,545.92
Escrow	\$20,701.11
Grant Fund	\$3,127.03
Trust Fund	<u>\$8,382.92</u>
TOTAL APPROVED:	\$292,930.20

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve all vouchers, 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. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Engel reported he has worked with Mr. Bowden to have the budget posted to the website. Mr. Engel stated he is scheduled to meet with the Website Committee in early May to discuss suggestions he has received for improvement from residents and will advise of the results.

Mr. Schatzle had no report this evening.

Mr. Florek reported the Fire Department is having a hockey fundraiser at Monclair State University on March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Florek noted tickets are available.

Mr. Florek reported the State is now requiring lock boxes. Mr. Florek noted the Executive Fire Council has tried to scale back the proposed ordinance to comply with the State's requirements while balancing the Township's characteristics.

Mr. Florek reported the Girls Basketball Team at Colts Neck High School had a very successful season, which included Shore Conference A-North Divisional Champions; Central Jersey Group IV Champions; Overall State Group IV Champions; Tournament of Champions Finalist; and 29 total season wins—the most in school history. Mr. Florek stated he hoped this impressive team could be honored at a future Township Committee meeting.

Mr. Florek reported the Colts Neck Sports Foundation (CNSF) is seeking to improve field maintenance, and they are interested in fundraising opportunities. Mr. Florek stated the CNSF wants to establish a capital account to deposit the fundraising receipts and donations for CNSF-sponsored capital projects.

Mr. Eastman spoke of the Historic Preservation Spring gathering.

Mayor Forester stated he intends to attend a meeting of the SADC in Trenton to express the Township Committee's opposition to the proposed sub-division of Yellow Brook Farm and will report back.

**21. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

With no further comments, Mayor Forester opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Debbie Loving spoke on behalf of her son and the flag pole project he undertook for Five Point Park. When her son sought to have a 50' to 60' pole placed at the Park, he was told a pole of that height did not comply with the local regulations. Ms. Loving questioned what she should tell her son now. Mr. Schatzle noted \$7,000 was raised by her son alone for this project, and the pole was dedicated to fallen heroes. Mayor Forester stated both he and Mr. Florek sit on the Planning Board and welcomed Ms. Loving to attend the next meeting scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Elaine Mann, a resident, spoke of her efforts to oppose the Earle issue and spoke of the upcoming Mayor's Summit being planned by NOPE. Ms. Mann then advised she observed a Clean Communities effort in Brigantine Beach. It was noted Mr. Hennessy is planning an Earth Day event with Holmdel Township.

Mr. Vince Domidion, a resident, thanked Mayor Forester for going to Trenton tomorrow on the Yellow Brook Farm issue.

Mr. Don Mason, a resident, commented on the speeding occurring on Lakeside Avenue and requested attention to this problem. Mayor Forester stated the Chief of Police will be advised of the problem and will be requested to increase Police surveillance. Mayor Forester urged Mr. Mason to return to the Township Committee if the problem is not corrected.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Forester closed the meeting to public comment.

22. **RESOLUTION 2009-62: EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 8:47 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Florek, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried by voice vote to go into Executive Session. Mr. Bowden advised no official action is anticipated this evening.

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

Motion by Mr. Florek, seconded by Mr. Schatzle, and unanimously carried to adjourn Closed Session and reconvene in Public Session.

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					

Motion by Mr. Eastman, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting.

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					

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

  
Robert Bowden, Township Administrator/Clerk

Attachment

2009 BUDGET INTRODUCTION  
MARCH 25, 2009

The total 2009 Municipal Budget is \$11,080,449, inclusive of \$363,449 in the Dedicated Open Space Fund.

Dollar to dollar, the 2009 Budget is \$38,213 less than the 2008 Budget.

While the Budget is less this year than last year, the Municipal portion of the tax rate will increase by one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation, from 33.4 cents to 34.4 cents. For a home assessed at \$400,000, this represents an increase of \$40 in property taxes for the year.

\$4,994,689 will be raised by taxation to support the Budget.

\$2,236,650 of surplus funds have been utilized to offset the tax increase, leaving just over \$375,000 remaining. Additional surplus was used this year to meet the State Property Tax Cap of 4 percent. The Township expects to replenish surplus funds by cancelling Debt Service Reserves, cancelling previous Capital Fund Appropriations, and the possible cancellation of unused funds from previous bond authorizations.

There are 566 Municipalities in the State of New Jersey. Most lost some State Aid this year. Colts Neck, however, was one of only 19 towns to receive a maximum five percent reduction. This resulted in a loss of \$112,740. Last year, the Township lost over \$163,000 in State Aid. It is this loss of State Aid, along with other revenues, that are the primary reason for the one cent tax increase.

On the appropriation side of the budget, 44 operating budgets were reviewed by the Township Committee; 20 were reduced, 12 remained the same, and 12 increased. Those budgets that increased were for understandable reasons such as rising utility costs, Police dispatching, snow removal, debt service, pension costs, hepatitis shots for volunteer Firemen, State gypsy moth spraying, street lighting, LOSAP, and so on.

The Township Committee will meet its contractual obligations to its three employee unions, while salaried management personnel will receive pay increases of one or two percent. No new employees are contained in the Budget. Additional salary savings have been realized through attrition and expected hiring of replacement personnel at much lower salaries.

Significant increases to the Budget include the following:

- Pension Costs have increased by \$89,995 from \$425,904 to \$515,899. The Township will fully fund the pension obligation.
- Snow removal costs have increased by \$50,000 from \$177,500 to \$227,500.
- Debt Service has increased by \$110,272 from \$831,833 to \$942,105.

Significant decreases to the Budget include the following:

- Recycling costs have decreased by \$38,600 from \$195,430 to \$156,000.
- The Legal Budget has been reduced by \$15,000 from \$175,000 to \$160,000.
- The budget of every board, committee, and commission has been reduced, some by significant amounts.

While the Capital Budget has been reduced by \$335,500, funds have been provided for the following:

- \$40,000 for Scott Air Packs and turn-out gear for the Fire Department.
- \$26,000 for Police Office computers, Police vehicle computers and Police portable radios.
- \$4,000 for a comprehensive volunteer and employee identification system.
- \$4,000 for required playground safety cushioning.
- \$9,500 for a new copy machine.
- \$3,000 for Recreation Building security and minor improvements to the Community Center.
- \$4,500 for Finance computers and an off-site computer back up system.
- \$10,000 for road stripping.

In general, the challenges faced by the Township Committee in preparing this year's Budget were much more on the revenue side, rather than appropriations. The continued erosion of State Aid, less available surplus, lower interest rates and slightly lower tax collection rate were mitigated by reductions in most budgets, less Capital spending and the use of additional surplus to offset the tax increase.

Therefore, while the 2009 Budget is dollar-to-dollar less than last year, the loss of revenues, particularly State Aid, still caused the minimal one cent tax increase.

The Township Committee thanks those residents that attended and participated in the Budget preparation process.

The public hearing for the 2009 Municipal Budget will be held on April 29, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Colts Neck Town Hall.