

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 12, 2006
7:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL**

The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Florek followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Administrator/Clerk, Robert 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 22, 2005 stating that the meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held on April 12, 2006 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 Florek, Deputy Mayor Stuart, Committeemembers Hennessy, Burry and Forester

Also Present: Robert Bowden; Thomas Bace, Esq., John Antonides, Robert Allison, and Beth Kara

Absent: None

1. **2006 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:** Mayor Florek opened the meeting with a prepared statement read on behalf of the Township Committee highlighting the 2006 Budget process and results, a copy of which is appended. Mayor Florek opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Chuck Cammarata, a resident, asked if Colts Neck has a revenue or a spending problem. Mayor Florek stated Colts Neck has neither problem. Mayor Florek stated revenue is less than it was last year, but no one wants to see large stores within Colts Neck or an increase in business ratables. He stated that spending is not a problem. Within the current budget, approximately \$200,000 is allocated for RCAs, which will avoid an increase on municipal services. Mr. Cammarata does not think Colts Neck is living within its means and advocates the segregating of income from fees. Mr. Forester stated the Township has no control over increased pension costs in the face of decreased State Aid. Mr. Antonides stated the audit will be published in the Asbury Park Press and will include the 2006 budget surplus. Mayor Florek suggested Mr. Cammarata meet with the Finance staff for a detailed review and discussion of the 2006 Budget. Mr. Cammarata's keen interest in the budget and attendance at the workshops was noted. Mayor Florek again stated the RCAs are saving in the long run and helping to maintain a quality of life in Colts Neck.

Ms. Sashe Annete, a resident, questioned the purpose and adequacy of the monies allotted for Environmental issues. Mr. Bowden advised funds were allocated for water testing and septic and well issues for Township buildings. Based on past experience, the funds allocated are thought to be sufficient; however, if an emergency occurred, it would be addressed through contingency funds.

Mr. Vince Domidion, a resident, stated he attended the budget workshop sessions and thought they were an excellent process. He commented that a slower growth in ratables combined with increased fixed costs result in increased taxes in the Township. Mr. Domidion recommends adopting an aggressive program to match revenues against expenditures.

Ms. Roseann Scotti, a resident, appreciates the hard work done by the governing body in the budget process. She wrote a letter to the Colts Neck Calendar about her alarm with the increase in debt service. Mr. Forester responded that with land prices increasing, it is more economical for the Township to bond. Once the land

is subdivided, most houses don't support the increase in municipal services provided. Land purchases were made through the bond process; and if the Township waited until it had the full purchase price set aside, the cost of land would have grown to a figure outside its reach. Mrs. Burry stated the Township Committee is sensitive to Ms. Scotti's concerns. She advised there are four properties currently being appraised for easement purchase under the Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program with no additional properties envisioned at this time. Mr. Stuart stated with the decrease in available land that qualifies under SADC, applications to the PIG program will decrease and the debt service should be paid off in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Vince Scotti, a resident, stated the 2.5 cent open space tax is like a cap, and if funds are not needed in a given year, they should be returned to the taxpayers rather than kept in reserve. Mayor Florek responded that the number of qualifying properties is diminishing, and Mr. Scotti's point is well taken. Mrs. Burry stated Colts Neck is a victim of its own success under the Farmland Preservation Program. When a qualifying property becomes available and the land owner is willing to enter the program, it would be unwise for the Township to pass up the opportunity. Mrs. Burry again stated after the current four applications now being appraised are processed, there are no immediate plans to acquire any additional properties. Mr. Stuart advised there was a \$27 million increase in new ratables, which is proportionately less than in prior years. Currently, the ratable base is approximately 2%; the tax increase is approximately 7%. Mayor Florek stated age-restricted housing is an option that would increase the ratable base with minimal impact on municipal services.

Mr. Cammarata asked what was included in "legal fees". Mr. Bowden advised legal fees include the three distinct Township legal services provided the Township by Sen. Bennett as attorney, bond counsel, and prosecutor. In addition; Mr. Giacobbe provides labor attorney services, and Mr. Molloy is special counsel for future housing services. In addition, the Township will appoint an alternate prosecuting attorney in the event Sen. Bennett is not available, however with no additional cost.

Mr. Scotti questioned the accuracy of the 2% ratable figure when contrasted with the price of new homes. Mayor Florek advised the same ratio is applied to everyone in Town. Mr. Stuart stated the Tax Assessor's job is to tax based on what is actually there. There are inequities in the tax system, and the Township will undergo a revaluation next year with tax increases, where necessary. Colts Neck is approximately 97-98% residential. Mr. Scotti stated he has seen MLS advertisements for Colts Neck showing a carriage house for rent, and suggests revising the current code to include guest houses as separate residences, as is done in Rumson, Long Island and Connecticut. Mayor Florek stated he is opposed to a guest house classification as it often increases the burden on the school system. Mr. Vince Domidion added there are currently 3200 residences within Colts Neck, which is a net increase of 18 units.

With no further comments from the public, Mayor Florek closed the 2006 municipal budget public hearing.

2. **RESOLUTION 2006-66:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2006 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Florek. Mr. Forester made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Burry and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>					X
<i>Motion Seconded</i>				X	
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

3. **ORDINANCE 2006-9:** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE 2006 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK was read by title on first reading by Mayor Florek. Mr. Forester made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Stuart and unanimously carried. Mayor Florek set the public hearing for April 26, 2006.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>					X
<i>Motion Seconded</i>		X			
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

4. **RESOLUTION 2006-67** CONFIRMING AND CERTIFYING LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP) CREDITS FOR 2005 FOR COLTS NECK FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND FIRE COMPANY NO. 2 was read by title by Mayor Florek. Mayor Florek stated the information provided was very detailed for each volunteer eligible for LOSAP credit earned during 2005. After passage, the 30-day posting period required by law would begin. Mr. Hennessy made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Burry and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>			X		
<i>Motion Seconded</i>				X	
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

5. **RESOLUTION 2006-68:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR – FRANCIS J. GILBERTSON, ESQ. was read by title Mayor Florek. This resolution would provide for the services of an alternate Township Prosecutor compensated at a rate of \$350 per session. Mr. Bowden advised this is not an additional legal cost, but provides for an alternate in the event the Township’s prosecutor is not available. Mrs. Burry made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Forester and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>				X	
<i>Motion Seconded</i>					X
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

6. **MOTION TO ADOPT A CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Florek read the following consent agenda resolution, by title:

***RESOLUTION 2006-69:** RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE, P.B. APPLICATION NO. 430 (LOCUST POINT).

Mr. Forester made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Stuart and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>					X
<i>Motion Seconded</i>		X			
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Mr. Bowden had no additional comment to his report, and discussed the following:

Mr. Bowden raised the issue of the Smith farm into the PIG program with a 1.5 acre exception. He provided various alternatives regarding the size of building that would be permitted. After discussing the alternatives, Mayor Florek stated the 1.5 acre exception should include 6.6% building coverage with an exception (subdivision) carved out for the billboard.

Mr. Bowden advised New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) is planning a pipeline project that would change a 10” transmission line to a 20” transmission line along Newman Springs Road and would involve the municipalities of Colts Neck, Marlboro, Holmdel and Middletown. NJNG is seeking a meeting location within Colts Neck to hold a public hearing, and several dates in May were proposed. Mr. Bowden advised that the dates of May 16 or 17 were available within the meeting room at Town Hall if the governing body was in agreement to provide the space. By voice vote, all Township Committee members agreed. Mr. Bowden will contact NJNG to schedule.

With regard to the replacement of the two antennas at Police headquarters, Mr. Bowden spoke with Mr. O’Scanlon and the testing was successful. The carrier, however, recommends increasing the height of the antenna to 150 feet; current regulations limit the height to 120 feet. Mr. Stuart stated the base size of a 150 foot antenna is substantially larger than the size needed for a 120 foot antenna. By voice vote all Township Committee members agreed to retain the 120 foot antenna limit at this site. Mr. Bowden will contact Mr. O’Scanlon.

8. **MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHERS.** Mr. Forester reviewed and signed the vouchers and commented all were in order. Mr. Forester made a motion to approve all vouchers totaling \$563,372.04, seconded by Mrs. Burry and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>					X
<i>Motion Seconded</i>				X	
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

9. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. Hennessy reported the dedication of Five Point Park occurred April 8, 2006. All residents are invited to experience this latest Township park. Mr. Hennessy described the baseball fields as fields of dreams. He gave kudos to Frank Baker, Harold Nolan and the Recreation Committee for their support in seeing this through to fruition.

Mr. Hennessy reported the First Aid Squad responded to 56 calls, including 18 motor vehicle accidents. With regard to First Aid LOSAP, Jarret Engel, First Aid President and affiliated with Metropolitan Life, has advised that eligible members not wanting LOSAP payment can designate the First Aid Squad or the Fire Companies as recipients.

Mr. Stuart had no report this evening.

Mr. Forester attended the Board of Health meeting and reported \$8,629 was received by the Township from Medicare as reimbursement for the Senior Flu Shot Clinic held this year.

Mr. Forester reported the geese program is moving ahead for this year.

Mrs. Burry advised she plans to attend the ceremony commemorating the 64th anniversary of the Battle of Midway and honoring the heroes of this historic event scheduled at Earle.

Mrs. Burry asked Mr. Bowden about the status of the four farmland appraisals to be accomplished by the two appraisal firms. Mr. Bowden has not seen final reports, and will follow-up with the two companies on status of completion.

Mrs. Burry reported the ending 2005 balance of the Farmland Preservation dedicated account is \$1,152,631. An additional \$350,000 is anticipated this year from the dedicated tax.

Mrs. Burry advised she received a request from a young man who is a resident and a skate boarder. His group of 10-15 participants want to participate in the Township's Memorial Day Parade and raise money for children with cancer. This issue was given to Mr. Hennessy for further discussion with the Recreation Director and Committee.

Mayor Florek reported the annual School Board election will be held Tuesday, April 18.

Mayor Florek spoke of a letter he received commending Police Officer Ronald Goodspeed for his professional response in successfully handling a volatile student. Mayor Florek added his appreciation of this excellent police work.

Mayor Florek received a letter commending the staff within the Township departments that worked so hard to support the dedication event held at Colts Neck High School on April 1. Mayor Florek added his appreciation to all involved.

Mayor Florek reported there was a brush fire between properties located at 5 and 7 Iroquois. The Township's 50-year old brush truck was not working and the 200 gallon brush truck provided limited support to fighting this brush fire. Brush trucks from nearby Tinton Falls and Pinebrook were brought in, and a helicopter was dispatched to assist. Luckily, brush trucks were able to extinguish the fire and the helicopter was not needed.

Mayor Florek advised the Mosquito Commission will commence spraying June 1 through December 30. Gypsy Moth spraying at Hominy Hill will begin May 1 through June 15.

Mayor Florek advised the New Jersey EPA is focusing on the Black Bear issue within the State. The Health Officer has been provided information regarding this initiative.

10. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Florek opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Chuck Cammarata stated during the budget sessions, there was discussion about converting to a new tank at Public Works to save money, and Mr. Cammarata requested the status. Mr. Bowden advised that Mr. Thompson was looking into the cost of this project. Mr. Cammarata then asked the cost of what is spent by the Township for natural gas. Mr. Bowden advised approximately \$25,000.

Ms. Sashe Annete, a resident and freelance photographer and journalist, provided information regarding renewable energy projects currently underway in Europe and in New Jersey. She discussed cost savings projected at the Bayonne Board of Education from installation of solar energy panels, the five turbine wind farm in Atlantic City that powers the plant plus 2500 homes, as well as initiatives in Montclair, at Whole Foods in both Princeton and Edgewater, and at Johnson & Johnson in Warren. Ms. Annete advised there are rebates available for energy saving installations and wants to see the Township establish a sub-committee of the Environmental Commission to focus on renewable energy. Mayor Florek agreed the Township should be proactive in this area and has requested Ms. Annete's discussion paper be appended to the minutes. Mrs. Burry invited Ms. Annete to a County Planning Board Meeting.

Mr. Cammarata questioned why there was a schedule conflict between the Township Committee meetings and the School Board meetings. Mayor Florek advised the Township Committee always (with few exceptions) meets on the second and last Wednesdays of the month. There is no reason to change the meeting dates. The School Board should follow their first and third Wednesdays meeting schedule.

Mr. Vince Domidion, a resident, commented on renewable energy and asked if solar firms are installing solar panels on school buildings free of charge. He suggested working with the County and municipalities on this initiative. Mr. Stuart commented the Brookdale campus and the Hall of Records are lit throughout the night and should consider renewable energy saving initiatives.

Ms. Annete reported solar panels are in high demand.

With no further comments, Mayor Florek closed the public portion of the meeting.

11. **MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:** Mr. Forester made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stuart and unanimously carried.

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE					
RECORD OF VOTE	MAYOR FLOREK	DEPUTY MAYOR STUART	HENNESSY	BURRY	FORESTER
<i>Motion To Approve</i>					X
<i>Motion Seconded</i>		X			
<i>Approve</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opposed</i>					
<i>Not Voting/Recuse</i>					
<i>Absent/Excused</i>					

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Robert Bowden, Township Administrator

Attachments 2

RB:bk