TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 29, 2009
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 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 April 29, 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 and Committeemember Eastman; Committeemember Engel and Committeemember Schatzle

Also Present: Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Robert Bowden; Legal Counsel, John O. Bennett, III, Esq. (arrived at 8:10 p.m.) and Ruth Leininger

Absent: None

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1. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Mayor Forester advised Student Government Day will be held on May 13, 2009. This year the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., one half hour earlier than usual allowing the student activities to take place first. It is anticipated the regular meeting will convene around 7:30 p.m.

2. **PROCLAMATION:** Mayor Forester read a Proclamation recognizing May 3rd – May 9th as Municipal Clerk's week. Mayor Forester noted how vital the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are to the operation of the Township and how much we appreciate our Clerk Robert Bowden and Deputy Clerk Beth Kara.

3. **BUDGET HEARING - 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Forester read a statement (attached). Open to the public.

Chuck Cammarata, Route 537 asked how much total outstanding debt the Town has and what our debt reserve ratio is. John Antonides, C.F.O. replied $12.6 million, this includes $4.3 million for farmland and $8.3 million in general. He then asked how much is temporary debt? Mr. Antonides stated $3.9 million. What is the debt ratio? The debt reserve ratio is .32% which is very low. Mr. Cammarata then asked if the Township Committee has reduced their salaries for 2009? No they have not.

Brian Ceres, Northpoint Drive asked if the Township Committee has increased their salaries for 2009? No they have not. Mr. Ceres stated if they have not increased their salaries considering inflation they have taken a reduction.

Elaine Mann, Route 34 told the Board they should consider not funding or giving seed money to non essential committees and/or commissions. The Historical Committee has spent a lot of money restoring a building that is used once or twice a year and Architectural Review spends quite a bit on plaques.

Tom Papalia, 6 Holland Lane told the Board when he lived in New York they were given an option to pay the taxes for the entire year in January and given a discount. This may be something the Township may want to look into.

With no further comments the public hearing was closed.

4. **RESOLUTION 2009-70:** ADOPTING 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Forester. With no comments made, Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman (*abstaining from anything to do with the Police), Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

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					
* Committeeman Eastman recused himself from anything to do with the Police					

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2009 AND APRIL 15, 2009.** Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

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					

6. **ORDINANCE 2009-3:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK 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 second reading by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden explained this ordinance will permit a property owner to put a driveway through an easement. This was part of a Planning Board application that was granted, however the Township Committee governs all easements. Open to the public with no comments. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Engel, Schatzle, Florek and Forester; 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					

7. **CAPITAL ORDINANCE 2009-10 :** CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING $125,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY was read by title at first reading by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden explained now that the budget is approved an ordinance has to be passed to permit the money to be taken out of the budget and into the system so the capital purchases can be made. An extra $15,000 has been added to the appropriation to repair the tennis courts at Laird Road. When they were getting the courts ready for play it was discovered that there are serious cracks that must be repaired. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman (*abstaining from anything to do with the Police), Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman		X*		X*	
Engel	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					
* Committeeman Eastman recused himself from anything to do with the Police					

A public hearing is scheduled for May 27, 2009.

8. **RESOLUTION 2009-71:** AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID – 30-YARD ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS FOR CLEAN UP DAYS ($26,900.00) was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden explained they have gone out to bid for this service and Freehold Cartage was the low bidder. Mayor Forester stated the bid has been awarded to Freehold Cartridge in the past and they have given good service. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

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 2009-72:** DEPOSIT RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY, BUT NOT LEGAL CUSTODY, OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORDS TO THE MONMOUTH COUNTY ARCHIVES was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden explained the Monmouth County Archive and Records Center located in Manalapan is a state of the art facility. We will be provided 10 cubic feet of space at no cost to safely and properly store documents we have dating back to the 1800's. This resolution is an agreement with the county. The committee was pleased to endorse this resolution to ensure the proper storage of such delicate records. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

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					

10. **RESOLUTION 2009-73:** APPROVING FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND USO MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AND FLAG DEDICATION CEREMONY – JUNE 13, 2009 (TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB AT COLTS NECK) was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mayor Forester stated this was discussed and tentatively approved at last months meeting, this is the formal resolution. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eastman and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Florek and Forester; Mr. Schatzle abstained.

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

11. **RESOLUTION 2009-74:** APPROVING LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS ON TOWNSHIP RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG A PORTION OF PROFESSIONAL CIRCLE BY TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB AT COLTS NECK was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden said this was also part of the discussion last month. This will include the planting of numerous very nice trees according to the Township Landscape Architect's approval. The committee agreed this will definitely help beautify Professional Circle and will be a significant improvement. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Florek and Forester; Mr. Schatzle abstained.

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					

12. **RESOLUTION 2009-75:** APPROVING CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN EASEMENTS – BLOCK 46, LOT 1.52 (TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB AT COLTS NECK), P.B. APPLICATION NO. 672 was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden said this was also discussed at the last meeting. This will allow specific improvements to be done in the easements while waiting for State permits. These will be done at the applicants own risk and if approval is not granted by the State within two years the applicant will remove. Specifically the improvements are the 19th hole, flag pole, clock near the halfway house, enlarge the retention pond, relocating tee boxes 1, 10 and 16 and enlarging the practice greens. Items they must wait for approvals for is a new bridge, pond, pro shop and tennis courts. The resolution was amended to correctly state only Lot 1.52 and include all of the items listed above. Mr. Eastman made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Florek and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Florek and Forester; Mr. Schatzle abstained.

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

13. **RESOLUTION 2009-75A:** AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY (EVIDENCE) was read by title by Mayor Forester. Mr. Bowden explained the Police have evidence from many closed cases that are unclaimed and have been authorized for sale by the County Prosecutor. The auctioneer will get 5.5% of the proceeds made by an online auction. This resolution authorizes the agreement. The committee felt this was a good way for the Police to maximize what the items could be sold for. Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Engel, Schatzle, Florek and Forester; Mr. Eastman abstained.

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. **MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT RESOLUTION:** The following resolution was read by title by Mayor Forester:

15. ***RESOLUTION 2009-76:** APPROVING RECREATION PROGRAM REFUND.

*Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Schatzle, Florek and Forester.

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					

16. **DISCUSSION:** AN ORDINACE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 102-87, NOTE (C) OF THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK (POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION). Mr. Eastman told the Committee he met with the Township Planner, however the ordinance is not ready to pursue at this time. Mr. Eastman would like to table the discussion at this and will address at a future date.

17. **DISCUSSION:** LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET. Mayor Forester stated the school budget was defeated in April. The Township Committee now has the task to reduce the budget without seriously impairing the children. Mayor Forester, Mr. Eastman, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Paredes, the superintendent and three Board of Education members met but no decisions have been reached. The process requires that a resolution be approved by May 19, 2009. Any cuts must be identified with the reason given to the School Board; the School Board can either accept or appeal to the County, Superintendent or State. Open to the public.

Vince Domidion, Revolutionary Road stated he felt there were several ways the budget could be reduced and he felt they should strive for a zero tax increase. The money they included in their budget for roof repair to the Primary School could be bonded. He also suggested the elimination of one class from each grade; the average class sizes would still be very low. The committee could also look into the possible elimination of the optional full day kindergarten class.

Ms. Shah, 43 Acorn Place asked what the basis would be for the amount they will cut? Mayor Forester said there is not a special number. Mr. Florek said they do not want to be short sighted, they feel strongly about education. Ms. Shah asked the committee to please take into serious consideration the comments from the school administration.

Chris Placitella, 15 Goose Point Drive. Mr. Placitella felt the vote against the budget was a vote against the state of affairs not the school budget. Colts Neck also voted down a tax decrease for Freehold Regional so he urged the committee to look at it for what it is.

Arlene Radman, 4 Maple Drive. Ms. Radman urged the committee to listen to the Superintendent and be considerate. There is a strong community support for our education, please keep the cut to $100,000.

MaryBeth Tomaro, 28 Carriage Hill Drive. Ms. Tomaro is a real estate agent and stated the first question she is asked from potential buyers is how is the community support for the school. Please take what the professionals say seriously.

Jackie Hoagland, 92 Route 537. Ms. Hoagland told the committee they do not have to cut the budget at all. TheWe want their children to do well, please don't harm the schools.

Jeanie Heck, 51 West Larchmont Drive. Ms. Heck told the committee they all came out in force because they want the best for our children. They want to be sure there are no sever impacts to the children. Please consider the children when making decisions.

Mayor Forester told everyone that it is a difficult situation, a balance has to be met on all sides. They will do their best to see what can be done without being detrimental to the students.

Ken Krupa, 12 Tory Court. Mr. Krupa said as a parent you don't look at the school system just as education. He has an autistic child and education to him is also medicine.

Jackie Hoagland, 92 Route 537. Ms. Hoagland said the State is encouraging the implementation of preschool. Full day kindergarten is very important.

Mr. Florek stated he is a firm supporter of education. In reviewing the budget they will look into things that do not effect the education.

Mayor Forester closed the public comments and took a five minute recess.

18. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** Mr. Bowden told the committee there has been a request to serve alcohol at a picnic being held at Bucks Mill Park by Mensa. Mr. Florek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eastman and carried by Messrs. Engel, Eastman, Florek and Forester, Mr. Schatzel voted no.

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

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

Animal Control	$83.73
Capital Fund	$4,697.77
Construction Trust	$13,136.76
Current Fund	$7,669,976.99
Grant Fund	$1,828.74
Tax Collectors Trust	$5,622.78
Trust Fund	$15,550.68
Total	**$7,710,897.45**

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve all vouchers, seconded by Mr. Engel and carried by all except Mr. Eastman abstained from anything to do with the Police.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Forester		X			
Deputy Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman		X*		X*	
Engel	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					
* Committeeman Eastman recused himself from anything to do with the Police					

20. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Engel reported The Friends of the Library are very busy. On May 6, 2009 the library will host their annual children's garden and June 5th they will have a spelling bee and photo show.

Mr. Schatzle said the Health Department has been monitoring the swine flu outbreak and will get out any important information on the township website if needed.

Mr. Schatzle said opening day for Polo is May 31, 2009 everyone is looking forward to another great season.

Mr. Florek reported that opening day for baseball was last Saturday and the weather fully cooperated.

Mr. Florek said the Fire Department is holding a Texas Holdem fundraiser on May 15, 2009. Through the generosity of a resident, the Fire Department was able to participate in a search and rescue drill. A resident is demolishing their home but prior to the demo allowed the Fire Department to use their home for a drill.

Mr. Eastman stated he attended a First Aid extrication drill and was very impressed. Colts Neck is very lucky to have volunteer members donate so much time and effort and be so well organized.

Mayor Forester stated he attended a meeting at the SADC in Trenton opposing a proposed subdivision of Yellow Brook Farm whose development rights were purchased by the State. He was pleased to report the State upheld the decision.

Mayor Forester read a letter from resident Roseann Scotti who was not pleased with the budget and gave many recommendations to cut. Mayor Forester stated the budget process is held in open meetings where they even allow public comments.

21. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Elaine Mann, Clean Communities Coordinator. Ms. Mann reported she had a program for Earth Day at Cedar Drive School called "A Drop of Water". Over 180 children participated in a clean up, with the money they earned from Clean Communities they want to do something for the town. Recreation Director Thomas Hennessy also had several groups do clean ups around town all week celebrating Earth Day. With a total of $3,000 all participants are donating the monies to the town to retrofit stormdrains. Ms. Mann will be having an award ceremony at the June 10th Township Committee meeting. Ms. Mann said the children are very concerned about the environment and have various recycling programs going on at all the schools. Mayor Forester appreciated the hard work Mrs. Mann does on behalf of the Clean Communities program.

Andrea Giannopoulos, Board of Education President, told the committee she appreciates they are in a difficult situation regarding the school budget. However she said time is of the essence because they need to make staff decisions at their May 6, 2009 meeting. Mayor Forester said they can not promise to have a resolution by that date but they will be meeting frequently. Mr. Engel and Schatzle both have conflicts and must abstain from the process.

Nancy LoCasio, 21 Carriage Hill Drive urged any of the members if they have any specific concerns to get them answered tomorrow. The committee said they will only make informed decisions.

Elaine Hempstead, 48 Maple Drive. Ms. Hempstead reminded the committee most people move here because of the quality of our schools.

Carl Accetola, Pheasant Drive. Mr. Accetola stated Freehold Regional recently flew balloons to mark the height of a cell tower. He felt a cell tower would cause a significant risk to residents, students and employees. Mr. Bowden was surprised by this, he stated Freehold Regional did not advise the township and he would look into the matter.

Mr. Accetola stated he would also like to discuss the possibility of putting Veteran Housing at Earle.

22. **RESOLUTION 2009-77:** EXECUTIVE SESSION At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Schatzle, seconded by Mayor Forester and unanimously carried by voice vote to go into Executive Session.

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

Motion by Mr. Schatzle, seconded by Mr. Engel, 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		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Eastman		X			
Engel	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

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

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					

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Robert Bowden, Township Administrator/Clerk

attachment

2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 29, 2009

Mayor Benjamin T. Forester

Prior to opening the public hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget, I would just make a few comments.

The total 2009 Municipal Budget is $11,080,449.00, inclusive of $363,449.00 in the Dedicated Open Space Fund.

The Municipal portion of the tax rate will increase by one cent per $100.00 of assessed valuation, from 33.4 cents to 34.4 cents. For a home assessed at $400,000.00, this represents an increase of $40.00 in property taxes for the year.

There are 566 municipalities in the State of New Jersey. Most lost some aid this year. Colts Neck, however, was one of only 19 towns to receive a maximum five percent reduction, or a loss of $112,740.00. The formula used by the Corzine Administration for allocating aid was towns with low tax rates and high incomes received the maximum reduction in State Aid. Incredible.

The Township Committee reviewed 44 operating budgets this year. Of these, 20 were reduced, 12 remained the same, and 12 were increased. Those that were increased were for understandable reasons such as rising utility costs, Police dispatching, snow removal, debt service, pension costs, street lighting, contractual obligations or one-time costs, such as hepatitis shots for volunteer Firefighters and the Township share of the State Gypsy Moth Spray Program.

The Township Committee will meet its contractual obligations to its three employee unions, salaried management personnel will receive pay increases of one or two percent. No new employees are contained in the budget.

Significant increases to the budget include the following:

- Pension costs have increased by $89,995.00 from $425,904.00 to $515,899.00. The Township will fully fund the pension obligation this year.
- Snow removal costs have increased by $50,000.00 from $177,500.00 to $227,500.00.
- Debt Service has increased by $110,272.00 from $831,833.00 to $942,105.00.

Significant decreases to the budget include the following:

- Recycling costs have decreased by $38,600.00 from $195,430.00 to $156,000.00.
- The legal budget has been reduced by $15,000.00 from $175,000.00 to $160,000.00.
- The budget of every board, committee and commission has been reduced.

Capital expenditures contained in the budget include the following:

- $40,000.00 for Scott Air Pacs and turn-out gear for the Fire Department.
- $26,000.00 for Police computers, vehicle computers and portable radios.
- $4,000.00 for a comprehensive volunteer and employee identification system.
- $4,000.00 for playground safety cushioning.
- $9,500.00 for a new copy machine for the Recreation Department.
- $4,500.00 for Finance computers and an off-site computer back-up system.
- $10,000.00 for road stripping.

While the 2009 budget is actually $38,213.00 less than last year, the continued erosion of State aid, lower investment interest rates, and slightly lower tax collection rate, combined with appropriation increases, such as pension and debt service, resulted in the minimal tax increase of one cent.

The Township Committee would like to thank all those residents that attended and participated in the budget preparation process.

I would also like to introduce the Township's Auditor, Mr. Robert Allison, and Finance Officer, Mr. John Antonides, both of whom are here tonight to answer questions, if needed.

Unless there are any additional comments from members of the Township Committee, I would like to open the public hearing on the budget.