



**TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2011 – 7:00 PM**

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Official Newspaper and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Township website. Mayor Dennis Cook called the meeting to order at approximately 7 pm.

The flag salute was conducted.

ROLL CALL

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Robert Campbell, Committeeperson | Present |
| Lisa Garrison, Committeeperson | Present |
| Tammi Reynolds, Committeeperson | Present |
| Steve Simmerman, Deputy Mayor | Present |
| Dennis Cook, Mayor | Present |

Also present: Mr. John Carr as Solicitor and Richard DeVillasanta, Clerk

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 23, 2011

Mayor Cook called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. **Motion Made by:** Mr. Campbell to approve the minutes as submitted and seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

SOLICITORS REPORT

Mr. Carr stated he previously submitted a Report and presented an update for tonight. The update report contained resolutions for Bayview / Nantuxent Drive, a sample resolution for a volunteerism policy, copies of regular correspondence or other matters that are ongoing for the Township. The Tax Assessor has been forwarded information on the impact of taxation on solar facilities.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the Bill List *Payment of Bills in the amount of \$162,974.56.* (amount revised to include South Jersey Gas payment) **Motion made by:** Mr. Campbell to approve the Bill List as presented, seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

CONTINUATION OF BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Cook called for the continuation of Budget discussions with the goal of Introducing the 2011 Budget tonight. Mayor Cook asked for comments from the Committee.

Mrs. Reynolds stated the previous budget amount omitted the Auditors Services and other corrections are necessary in the addition on final amount of \$918,291.00. Mrs. Garrison stated her total is \$937,213.00 not \$918,291.00.

Mrs. Reynolds stated there is money owed to Pennoni and Associates. Mayor Cook stated there is \$39,000 owed to Pennoni and this amount is not included in the budget. This amount was incurred in 2010 and that budget was overspent in addition to the other over expenditure amount. Pennoni's charges are being review and it is felt there is potential to negotiate and these charges must be reconciled in this budget. At the last meeting the budget amount was \$895,390.

Mayor Cook asked all Township Committee members for any comments, discussion or corrections to the budget.

Mrs. Garrison asked for a review of each line item introduced previously. After a thorough review she found additional corrections needed.

Mr. Campbell expressed his comments on making budgets that are based on the previous year's expenditures and no local purpose tax and by doing this as is evident from the past three years, the budget is over spent.

Mrs. Garrison stated that the fixed cost items should not be over stated.

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the budget as introduced.

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve the Budget Introduction as presented. Mr. Campbell withdrew his motion for additional comments and questions from the committee.

Mr. Simmerman asked for an explanation on the \$1606 under Emergency Management Miscellaneous. Mr. DeVillasanta stated this amount is from the OEM manager's salary that he wishes to donate to the O & E budget for purchases.

Discussions continued on various line items amounts and each were explained.

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the budget as introduced.

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve the Budget Introduction as presented, motion seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | No |
| Steve Simmerman | No |

Motion Carried

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to open the meeting for public comments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

A resident asked how Mr. Campbell can vote on a budget that he is responsible for \$30,000 worth of debt in the budget. Mr. Campbell stated in January 2009 he was let go unfairly. He filed a whistle blowers suit against the Township (CEPA claim). In the suit he waived any punitive damages from the Township. However he is holding the private individuals named in the suit for punitive damages. The only cost to the Township from this suit is the \$10,000 deductible and \$20,000 of the first \$100,000 which is \$30,000. That bill has never been presented to the Township and there is no money hidden to pay it. Maybe next year or the year after as this situation may be ongoing for a couple more years.

Also in November of 2009 when I won the election four members of this committee opted to hire Archer and Griner a law firm from Haddonfield to sue me and keep me from being seated. They paid Archer and Griner about \$17,000 to keep Bob Campbell from sitting at this table.

The resident continued that if there are any punitive damages is the township responsible for them.

Mr. Campbell stated this information is not correct. They are personal lawsuits. The Township's attorneys should not be representing these individuals.

Mayor Cook interrupted the conversation to state that the public comments should be focused on the Resolutions listed.

Bernie Sayers asked if the Committee is voting on Resolution R-041-2011. How can you introduce the Budget in Resolution 041 and amend the Temporary Budget in Resolution 48. Do we have a temporary budget currently?

Mayor Cook stated we do have a temporary budget and by State law because we are going into the fourth month of the year we must pass an amendment to continue.

Mrs. Garrison explained to Mr. Sayers that in the beginning of the year you adopt a temporary budget that lasts for a few months and if it goes past that time you amend that budget.

Mr. Sayers asked what a special expectation for paying certain bills is (Resolution R-045).

Mayor Cook explained that if we are not able to have a meeting and our County tax bill is due or our payment to the school board is due this would allow us to process the check to make the payment and then at the next meeting of the Committee we would include that item on the payment of bills.

Mr. Sayers asked if he submitted an OPRA request tomorrow would he see a breakdown of the certain bills that will be paid attached to Resolution R-045-2011.

Mr. Simmerman stated this resolution needs to specify the certain main bills allowed and not be an open resolution.

Mr. Carr stated that the Committee could hold a meeting to just pay bills and act as a committee which is the normal course or carve out specific exceptions.

Mr. DeVillasanta stated this resolution should be tabled and be more specific.

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to table Resolution R-045-2011. **Motion made by:** Mr. Campbell to table Resolution R-045-2011. Motion was seconded by Mr. Simmerman.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

A Resident asked how many phone lines are currently used by the Township. How many employees are on the premises most of the time?

Mayor Cook answered one phone line and two full time employee.

The resident stated that he has two phone numbers and 5 employees and doesn't need a new phone system. Why does this community need a new phone system? We need to spend \$4000 for a new phone system and face a tax increase for one phone number. Sounds like you are hiding money.

Mr. Campbell stated there are at least 5 phone number in the office.

Mayor Cook explained we are so staff lean that a critically needed person is interrupted to answer the phone. This is inefficient. As I have said there are also other issues with the current phone system.

Mrs. Pew stated that she has a problem with the 18 cents local purpose tax. We are in a recession and we see extra money being attached to line items. In reality when something happens in life you take money from one line item to pay for what is needed and then catch up. We have a budget where people are getting raises, new systems being put in, etc. It is very difficult to swallow this budget right now. We should look at cutting back the local purpose tax from maybe 18 cents to 10 cents.

Mrs. Garrison stated she agrees with Mrs. Pew next year we will walk in with the extra money and at that point I feel you can go and get your new system and other improvements.

Mrs. Pew continued there are so many people losing their homes and their jobs. No one is getting raises they are taking pay cuts. We are also hiring new personnel (2 part-timers) for the convenience center. If we are hiring for the convenience center at least make the hours convenient for us. We have two days with the hours of 7am-2pm. Everybody that has a job is working during those hours. Every other township has one evening available to take your trash. Weeks go by sometimes before we can take our trash because of the hours.

Mr. Campbell answered that he agrees with her statements about the budget, but if we are not smart and we do this year what was done last year and the year before, next year we will be looking at a 25 cents local purpose tax.

Mrs. Garrison comments that last month we moved an employee from the convenience center to save money now the savings needs to be explained when we are now hiring two new individuals.

Mr. Campbell stated that OSHA regulations required us to have two men on the Road Dept.

Mr. Carr stated that he will provide the OSHA documents to support that regulation.

Mr. Campbell stated that we are not hiring more convenience center workers; we have a situation where we don't have coverage. If this should happen we will have back-ups to call in for that day. We have discussed evening hours for the convenience center. In the winter time more lighting would be required but we did talk about having summer hours shifted in the summer months on Wednesday. We will continue to pursue that.

Mrs. Pew asked about communications with the solar company. Mayor Cook stated we will discuss that under old business.

A resident from Gandy's Beach asked will there be a public hearing on this budget and will we see all the line items at that time. Is there a line item in 2011 for another \$40,000 to \$100,000 fix to the bulkheads at Gandy's Beach? I hope you realize that you will have expenses at Gandy's Beach that you have not budgeted for.

Mayor Cook stated the April 20, 2011 meeting date will be changed and will be discussed later tonight. We will be presenting a bond issue that should cover the extra monies needed.

A resident stated that she has calculated that her taxes will increase almost \$500. How can we do this? You will make Fortescue a ghost town because people can't afford that increase.

Mayor Cook stated that our goal is that you can budget for the next 5 years without the expectation of an increase. This is the first tax in this municipality. Conversations are ongoing with the Tax Assessor to look at reducing the taxes assessed in Fortescue which is my goal. I will continue in my efforts.

Mayor Cook continued the residents of Downe Township are paying about 85 cents in county taxes. This is where our fight should be and I haven't seen anyone from Downe Township in attendance at these county hearings. I have real concerns about those charges and we are investigating them. Please be sure to attend the County Freeholders Budget Hearings.

Bernie Sayers asked about Resolution R-049-2011. This resolution covers all of the roads in Money Island and I don't see any expenses for bulkheading in front of Tony Novak's house or Mrs. Pews house. What is going to keep the \$138,000 road from being wiped out because there is nothing there to protect it.

Mayor Cook stated we will be presenting a bond issue and we will cover that expense at that time.

Mr. Sayers asked how many years are we bonding for.

Mayor Cook stated two or three years.

Mr. Sayers asked how many years could we bond for.

Mayor Cook stated it could be up to 10 years. Right now we would be paying about 1.75% interest it's not free money but it is close and we want to take advantage of these excellent interest rates which will not last forever.

Mr. Sayers stated you are going to put the burden on us to pay off something that could be paid of in 10 years and force it to be paid off in 1 or 2 years.

Mr. Campbell stated this resolution is to cover the overlay in Money Island. We are skipping the paving where we put the bulkhead in. When we put the bulkhead in we are going to cut the road open for tiebacks and construction so the paving for this section will be held up until the bulkhead goes in.

Mr. Bart stated he has 26 years in the municipality and has never seen anything like this. I see Dennis, Tammi and Bob are trying. Nobody wants to see an 18 cents or 20 cents increase. The past council put us in a hole by doing things the way they did. You have read the Audit Findings from the Auditor and it has been a total mess. All I see here is Mrs. Garrison belittling those two people who are green horns that are trying to learn and make way and all she does is put them down instead of trying to work with them.

Mrs. Garrison stated she has not belittled anybody. This is my tax dollar too. You can have an opinion too. You were here at the last meeting and I didn't get answers then and I'm still not getting answers on things. I think I have every right to demand we go through the budget. I have not belittled anyone.

Mrs. Reynolds stated the Garbage and Trash line item was decreased about \$1000 at the last meeting and a CCIA letter was just received about an increase that is not included in this budget.

Mrs. Garrison stated she contacted the CCIA and found that we did about 600 tons last year. If we calculate 700 tons and multiply that by the increase per ton, which is about \$200 we should be okay.

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to close the public comment on the Resolutions.

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to close the public comment on the Resolutions. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

RESOLUTIONS

R-041-2011 *A Resolution Approving the Introduction of the 2011 Budget*

R-042-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing Township Committee to Approve the Senior Center Agreement for 2011*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-042-2011. Motion seconded by Mr. Simmerman

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | No |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-043-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing a Petty Cash Fund for the Clerk's Office in Accordance with State Statute*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-043-2011. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-044-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing a Dog Change Fund in Accordance with State Statute*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-044-2011. Motion was seconded by Mr. Simmerman

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-045-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing a Special Exception for Paying Certain Bills*

Resolution R-045-2011 was tabled.

R-046-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing Volunteers to Work in the Township of Downe for Certain Projects in Accordance with the JIF*

Mr. Carr stated there is some interest from volunteer to help out with the bulkheading project and the immediate questions is what does our insurance carrier state about this interest. It is my understanding that a volunteerism policy was recommended. What I want to highlight for this committee is my strong recommendation that if this is the direction you chose to go into, which is a great idea, but don't mistake this for the policy that really would be needed to implement that. There needs to be some controls on this. There are health related issues with this and a host of other issues that a policy should be set up to do. This resolution allows the committee to move forward before an emergent or real issue comes up. This allows you to set the guidelines. These guidelines will apply to any volunteers that help the township.

Mrs. Garrison asked if we are doing a volunteer project what happens if something is done wrong, then we are responsible because we can't put the responsibility on a contractor. We need to know the specifics on the tasks someone is doing.

Mr. Campbell stated this is the sort of thing we are covered for in our liability insurance. Mr. Campbell welcomed any help in planning the specifics of this program.

Mr. Carr recommended that a policy be prepared and accompany this resolution.

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-046-2011 subject to developing a volunteerism policy. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-047-2011 *A Resolution Authorizing the Clerk to Place an Ad for Part-Time Workers for the Convenience Center*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-047-2011. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds

Mrs. Garrison asked who is working currently.

Mr. Campbell replied Robert Reilly, Elmer Kenney and Ellis Beebe.

Mrs. Garrison asked Mr. Campbell to explain when Elmer Kenney came into employment. Mr. Campbell stated that Mr. Kenny is back in town and when we were short of help we contacted him. He was never removed from our system.

Mrs. Garrison asked Mr. Carr for an opinion as she presented the minutes of August 2010 where Mr. Campbell stated he tried to get the Township Committee to discuss advertising for a convenience center fill in person for four months. Every month this discussion has been rejected by the Committee. He stated that Mr. Kenney had quit and the part time fill person is no longer available to fill the position, so therefore, Mr. Kenney is not an employee he quit.

Mr. Campbell stated that Mrs. Garrison is correct. But it doesn't matter because tomorrow when we advertise; Mr. Kenney will come in and fill out an application to become a convenience center worker.

Mrs. Garrison stated all she wants is for Mr. Campbell to follow the proper procedures.

Mr. Simmerman asked if it is the responsibility of the full committee to do hiring.

Mr. Campbell stated in the past the Committee hired people as they pleased and gave raises when they wanted.

Mr. Carr stated he recommends that the Committee give direction in aspiration to your Administrator and give him the authority. If not, it must be done by the entire committee. Many committees say they are interested in being part

of the process and we want the person to speak to the full committee. That may be the best way for this committee to operate.

Mayor Cook stated this should depend on the position. He doesn't think that is the best use of the Committees time. We have an Administrator.

Mr. Carr stated the Administrator could do the process and make a recommendation to the Committee. At that time the recommendation would come before the Committee.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-048-2011 *A Resolution Approving the Amendments to the 2011 Temporary Budget*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-048-2011. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

R-049-2011 *A Resolution Awarding the Bayview Road, Nantuxent Drive & East Nantuxent Drive Project to Asphalt Paving Corp in the Amount of \$138,132.00, per the Recommendation of our Township Engineer*

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to approve Resolution R-049-2011. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Project

Mayor Cook asked Mr. Campbell for a status update. Mr. Campbell stated at the last meeting Mrs. Garrison produced a letter from Mr. Williams of Renewal Energy Partners that was not discussed. I contacted Mr. Williams to discuss the letter. Mr. Williams forwarded his response which is the letter you have tonight. Before receiving this letter I prepared a best case scenario of how Downe Township could make money with the landfill. The Township could generate about \$5M in revenue the first year based on the solar market. This is not an easy thing to do there is a lot of bureaucracy involved and it takes time. Mr. Williams is talking about a straight land lease which is a safe thing to do. There are no guarantees. He mentions something about \$100,000 this year but only subject to getting certain things done. He makes some statements that I would like to further discuss with him. There is a bit of misinformation in Mr. Williams response that I know isn't accurate. This is a lengthy process and we need to start taking steps in the direction we want to move in. Lastly, the landfill was closed according to DEP requirements at the time. We know we need to get the DEP involved and our engineer and see what we have to do. I think we should pass a resolution to have a committee or myself do the leg work to check into establishing our landfill as a redevelopment zone. This could help and benefit the township. Mr. Campbell asked Mrs. Garrison about the process they have used in Woodbine.

Mrs. Garrison stated yes Woodbine has a redevelopment zone in their landfill. Mrs. Garrison continued we should look further into where we want to go before we decide on a redevelopment zone.

Mr. Campbell stated he is suggesting we pass a resolution to investigate a redevelopment zone at this time. We need to evaluate what the benefits would be for Downe Township.

Mrs. Garrison stated this should be done by the Planning Board and they should make that recommendation to the Committee. What do you think we are going to gain with a redevelopment zone versus your previous request to send our RFP's for a solar type project.

Mr. Campbell stated we should be doing both of these things to determine what we want to do.

Mr. Carr stated there are some benefits in doing a redevelopment zone process whether they would make a significant benefit to this project, we don't know.

Mayor Cook stated we could possibly do this project ourselves or work with some firm as an option.

Mrs. Garrison stated we need to determine if we want to do this project and incur all the risk involved because there are risks.

A resident asked how much longer are we going to talk about this we just keep putting it off.

A resident asked in order to have a redevelopment zone don't we have to have a sewerage treatment plant.

Mr. Campbell stated this is more an economic development project. We are not planning to put housing or buildings on the landfill area.

Mayor Cook stated if we decided to do this ourselves or work in concert with someone, having a redevelopment zone could facilitate that process. We can do some of these things all at once. I would like to see the township create as many options as we can until we make a final decision. This motion would be to investigate the pros and cons of establishing a redevelopment zone on the landfill.

The resident continued this company contacted the Township last year in August and we are still in the same position. This could have possibly helped with the budget we are working on now.

Mayor Cook stated even though he was not on the committee last year he does not think we would have realized any dollars for this year no matter what could have been done. Also they were offering \$56,000 without a guarantee last year and now they are guaranteeing \$100,000.

Mrs. Garrison stated the original agreement was approved based on a mutual agreement which we have never gotten too.

Mr. Campbell indicated we didn't because we found out that we needed to go out to bid for the process. We will never know what the end result could be because we never got to the negotiation part. Right now they are saying if certain conditions are met and they know they can build on that landfill they will forward the \$100,000 this year. That could have been negotiated last year and it would have helped with this budget.

Mayor Cook stated that whatever the history and we can debate the history but we need to do due diligence right now. We must make the commitment to investigate all aspects of a proposal. We should sit down with these folks as well and at the same time investigate other potential options that may be available to us.

Discussions continue with the Committee and residents about preparing a RFP to see what other interest there is in the property. Mr. Campbell stated that he would prepare a generic RFP and forward it to our solicitor for review and see what action follows. Mrs. Garrison stated the RFP process is a requirement the Township has to follow.

Mr. Sayers asked Mayor Cook what kind of experience he has in business.

Mayor Cook stated he is not going to respond to Mr. Sayers question.

Mr. Sayers stated he has been in business for 45 years and has put many business documents together and we have nothing here.

A resident stated if you pay attention to what's going on around the country most businesses go nowhere. What you are asking us to do is become like a business in something that we are not experienced in. Before the people of this township enter into a business, it should be put on a referendum and the people of this community should vote on something like that. As far as other companies coming in and taking all the risk and giving us something off the top and our landfill being remediated, that is a good idea. Going into business ourselves, that's up to the people of the community.

Mr. Simmerman stated he has stated since last year the township needs to eliminate the cell phones and take that money and invest in the answering system. We waste so much money. Also we are sitting on the sale of the ambulance that we have sitting in a garage. That is money that goes back into the budget. Either run this place right or get off the board and let someone else do it.

Discussion continued about the cell phones and lack of use.

Mrs. Garrison stated as far as the ambulance goes we decided that EBay was the route to take because it has a large coverage area. Mrs. Garrison stated she would forward information to Mr. DeVillasanta to start the process.

Mr. Simmerman stated we need to keep old business on the agenda every month until the issues are settled. We used to have a list of 8 or 10 items.

Mrs. Garrison stated maybe we should get Mr. Carr involved in the street lighting issue because we are not getting the information from the electric company. Maybe we can get more efficient lighting, move some or get rid of some.

Mr. Simmerman stated the Rescue Squad will be having a Pig Roast on April 30th. He asked that the community participate to make this a success.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cook stated the Municipal Clerk has been very active. We have had four meetings in the last couple of months associated with the Court System. The numbers were looking very poor at the start of the year but I am very happy to say they have improved in terms of the number of court cases. This helps us continue our no cost relationship, however, I feel this may change in the future. I would like to praise Mayor Sharp of Fairfield Township a very ethical committed individual that I think is relating to us in a very fair manner. There has been a lot of discussions around the State and within the county in terms of different relationships that are being developed. Our regional representative from Trenton, Miss Carol Cummings, our liaison, spoke at a recent gathering in which she laid out all of the various options and types of relationships that various municipalities can take advantage of and can consider. We are in a joint court type of relationship. Within our current agreement there can be no increase unless one of the parties writes to the other and so states that they feel that they want to end the agreement or change the agreement. At the beginning of the year it was looking like we definitely would have a charge levied on us before the end of the year or the joint agreement would have been dissolved. In order for that to occur the Township must receive a letter. I am grateful that to date we have not received a letter. But, going forward, I can see in subsequent budgets there may be a cost. We are talking now about what form that cost would take and feel good about our relationship.

There is no change in the relationship with the seniors. They are a terrific group and are a pleasure to work with.

Mr. Simmerman read the Planning and Zoning report. Mr. Simmerman stated he will be attending the Recreation Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Mrs. Reynolds read the Tax Collectors report.

Mrs. Reynolds reported Bridgeton has severed there services with our Downe Township school except for food which will continue until the end of the year. We are now in with Hopewell for the BA. It has been a very trying time for the school board. They are looking at a 1.04 cent increase in their taxes. On the good side, they are having a talent show/bake sale on April 6th. Edith Bauer the township Kindergarten teacher was named the Greater Cumberland County Outstanding Educator of the Month of March by the Daily Journal and local business executive organization.

Zac from the school board stated the date has been changed to April 20th for the talent show/bake sale.

Mrs. Garrison stated she was down on Sunday to check out the feral cat population and counted five cats. I think the committee needs to make a decision on how they want to handle the feral cat population. I asked that Mr. Carr make a report next meeting on other municipalities that have feral cat programs.

Mr. Campbell stated we received a proposal from the Laura and Budney Road project that will be discussed at the next meeting. On Thursday I went to a meeting at the Rutgers Extension for the CC Regional Sewer Authority. There is no sewer existing or proposed for Downe Township.

Mr. Campbell stated the storm we had caused problems in Gandy's Beach. This was not designated as a disaster. We cannot get FEMA funding for the repair of the bulkhead at this time.

Mr. Campbell stated Haney Creek Road is interesting. The State went down there last year and did a big project on our road. They put in a beautiful road with shells and a parking lot all the way out with a boat ramp and all they never contacted us. Now there are flooding problems and the road is washing away there is a lot of erosion because they didn't pipe any of it.

Mrs. Garrison stated the flooding was happening before they did the work. It was foolish for the State to put money into it because the flooding was going to continue.

Mr. Campbell stated they raised the road about 8 or 10 inches compared to what it was. I am now trying to get in touch with the County and the State to see who is going to fix the problem.

Mrs. Garrison asked if we are getting all the money that we should be getting from FEMA. We are not putting in figures for health benefits and we are entitled to them. In the future we should be including this information.

Mr. Campbell stated that in the future Mrs. Garrison should review the documents before we submit them since she is familiar with the process. I think we are going to get about \$3400 from that last snow storm.

Mr. Campbell attended a meeting for a County Levy Inventory sponsored by FEMA, the County, DEP and Army Corp of Engineers about all of the levees in the County. The thing that I learned today is these levees qualify for rehabilitation money from the ACOE. There are levees all over around here. Seawalls and bulkheads qualify as levees. I am going to contact the ACOE to see about getting help here with the bulkheads.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Mayor Cook stated we will have a public portion on the budget we spoke about tonight. Since we must wait 28 days in order to conduct this meeting, would you like to have the public testimony portion in terms of the budget at the May 2, 2011 or would you like to have a special meeting day. The Committee agreed to have the public portion at the May 2, 2011 meeting. There will be no meeting on April 20, 2011.

Mr. Campbell stated we are applying for a Clean Energy Grant. It is a \$50,000 grant to upgrade the buildings, heating, air conditioning and other energy efficient items. The grant application includes our buildings, the rescue squad building and the two fire department buildings. In order for any of the buildings to qualify they have to use at least 100 kilowatts of electricity a year. It turns out that the rescue squad only uses 50 and the fire companies are

probably less than that. It appears the only building that will qualify for this grant is the municipal building which use 255 kilowatts a year.

Mrs. Garrison stated that her borough combined all of there township building together and submitted it.

Mr. Campbell stated he will look into combining the buildings.

Mr. Simmerman asked how is the public works building heated. Mr. Campbell stated they do not have heat.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell to open the meeting for public comments and seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion carried

Bernie Sayers asked the Committee to start working together

Zack King stated the talent show at the school will be held April 20th at 6:30pm. If you would like to contribute baked goods, contact the PTO. Contact information can be found on the school website. He would also like to thank the Township Committee for their support on March 18th and the Recreation Committee for attending the Kite Day. It was great experience for the school and especially the kids.

Mayor Cook called for a motion to close public session.

Motion made by: Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Robert Campbell | Yes |
| Tammi Reynolds | Yes |
| Dennis Cook | Yes |
| Lisa Garrison | Yes |
| Steve Simmerman | Yes |

Motion carried

Mayor Cook thanked everyone for coming out and asked that they continue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard DeVillasanta, Clerk