

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Wilson stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

#### ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR MICHAEL WILSON
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JOHN NEWMAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Councilman Sims offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Supplement to Workshop Meeting March 15, 2010 and was seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2010/6 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).”**

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2010/6 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on April 19, 2010 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk’s office to members of the general public who shall request same.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Introduction of the 2010 Annual Budget for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”**

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Mayor Wilson stated the public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2010/7 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth Amending Chapter 8.32, The Mandatory Recycling Program for Separation and Collection of Recyclable Materials.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that a Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2010/7 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AMENDING CHAPTER 8.32, THE MANDATORY RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR SEPARATION AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS,” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on April 19, 2010 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk’s office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Schnurr stated Agenda Items No. 7 & 8 are linked. Item No. 7 states that Freehold Borough must have a recycling ordinance and Item No. 8 lists the reason why. He stated there must be an ordinance in place to apply for the grant.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Endorsing the Submission of a Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SUBMISSION OF A RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Between the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the Borough of Freehold for the Live Where You Work Program.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Newman:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW JERSEY HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY AND THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD FOR THE LIVE WHERE YOU WORK PROGRAM.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Borough is entering into an agreement with New Jersey Housing Mortgage Services. He explained the income levels needed for applicants who apply. The income level for two people is \$105,000.00 and for a large family it is \$122,000.00. These are the

purchase price limits for either a new or existing two family, three family or four family home. The State will underwrite part of the cost of the mortgage. You don't have to be a first time homebuyer to take advantage of this program.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Requesting Participation in the State of New Jersey Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program.”**

Councilman Newman offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY LOCAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:**

- a. **Ninety day extension of medical leave of absence for Carol J. Biddle to July 12, 2010.**
- b. **Resignation of Justin Holley as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine Company #1, effective April 1, 2010.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS 11A AND 11B.**

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:**

- a. **Raffle License #7-10, Collaborative Support Programs, 5/21/10 – 12:00 PM at 11 Spring Street.**
- b. **Sidewalk Café License, Ibbey's Falafel, 4 West Main Street.**
- c. **Sidewalk Café License, Main Street Bistro, 30 East Main Street.**
- d. **Sidewalk Café License, Market Yard Grille-American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street.**
- e. **Sidewalk Café License, Stefano's Pizza, 35 East Main Street.**
- f. **Sidewalk Café License, Café 360, 34 East Main Street.**
- g. **Sidewalk Café License, Angelo's Café Bistro, 13 West Main Street.**
- h. **Sidewalk Café License, Court Jester, 16 East Main Street.**
- i. **Solicitation License, The Marketing Professional, Inc., updating Verizon clients to FIOS service, 4/6/10 – 12/31/10. c/o Jacq Vargas.**
- j. **Parade License, Freehold Boro Little League, 4/17/10, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Rain date 4/18/10 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM), starting at the Railroad Plaza Parking Lot to the Little League fields. c/o Rich Matteo, President**
- k. **Vendor License, Bruce E. Winland, Weaser's Ices, 4/6/10 – 11/1/10 Sunday – Saturday, 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM.**
- l. **Vendor License, Octavio Ortiz, Ortiz Ice Cream, 4/6/10 – 11/1/10 Sunday – Saturday, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**
- m. **Vendor License, Freehold Beautiful Inc., selling American Flags at the Memorial Day Parade. c/o Bunny Hammer**
- n. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Juan Ramirez Rojas, Jamesburg.**
- o. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Teofilo Melendez, Morganville.**

- p. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Elizabeth Hernandez, Freehold.**
- q. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Octavio Pantoja, Freehold.**
- r. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Eva Nami, Howell.”**

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS NO. 12A THROUGH 12R.**

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Approval of Bills.”**

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$2,487,892.74 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read the following:

“By now it has become quite clear to all that the financial outlook for our State can be defined as bleak, at best. As with most towns throughout the State, Freehold Borough has realized the reduction in State aid of \$321,000.00 for 2010. This means that over the past three fiscal periods we have seen our financial aid diminished by 35%. However, instead of bemoaning the depth of these cuts we simply decided to take charge and make a lean operation even leaner. In fact, we have been anticipating the need to make tough decisions over the past few years leading up to this time of fiscal reckoning. We have changed refuse collection contractors which has lowered the cost while not sacrificing the level of service. We have refused to replace employees who have opted to retire and we changed the employee health insurance providers in an effort to contain the astronomical rise in premiums. We have even begun the process of transferring our fire dispatch operations to the County. A move that most towns in Monmouth County have already implemented. So far, our efforts have not resulted in a single lay-off of a full-time employee. Our total budget is \$73,000.00 less than it was in 2009. Even tougher decisions await us in the next few months. We continue to review the effectiveness of all the services on an ongoing basis. We have even commenced discussions with Monmouth County to see if they could assume our police dispatching operation. Much similar to the manner in which it has been employed by many other Monmouth County municipalities. Undoubtedly, there will be some who may not be pleased with some of our decisions. But in a final analysis we must be held in account to all of our taxpayers, not just a select few.

We have experienced a reduction in State aid for the last three years of \$531,000.00 and the reduction in State aid for 2010 is \$321,000.00. The cost incurred from the 2009-2010 weather events that we’ve experienced was \$90,000.00. The gross dispatch cost to our residents, police and fire is \$586,000.00 per year. The start-up cost for police is estimated at \$100,000.00. These costs would be capitalized. The start-up cost for our fire department would be \$50,000.00, minimum. Those start-up costs would also be capitalized. In that savings analysis we would retain a phone call taker at police headquarters. We would retain an additional Special Officer. We have the cost to the County for the calls and we would retain one house person Monday through Friday at the firehouse with no back-up. This will yield a net savings to the Borough of \$343,000.00. The net savings is broken down on a full year basis of \$140,000.00 a year from the fire department. The net savings to the police department would be \$203,000.00 per year. The net savings have a direct and immediate savings of approximately 3½ cents to our tax rate. A formal arrangement with the County has not yet been determined with the police dispatching. We have been told by County officials that Freehold Borough will be the next town in line. Part of the start-up cost for the fire dispatch conversion will include the purchase of a fuel fleet management system which will improve accountability of our gasoline usage. Another part of the start-up cost includes the purchase and installation of a security system for both Borough Hall and the Firehouse.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are not easy decisions. We all know most of you sitting in this room tonight are firemen and police officers. We don't sit here and have to do things like this because we want to. When you have cuts that the Governor has implemented at these kind of excessive numbers, these cuts have consequences. There are a lot of residents that are unemployed. There are a lot of residents that are on fixed incomes. A lot of our residents live paycheck to paycheck. Sure we could go on, just double the increase of our taxes this year. It would be more than that next year because from what we're hearing from Trenton is that 2011 is not going to be any better than 2010. Are these popular decisions? Of course not. Can I have political ramifications? Sure. But these seven people here that were elected, were elected to make tough decisions. If you can't make the tough decisions once in a while than you shouldn't be up here. Do we feel bad for the people who will be laid off? Of course we do, it's a small town. Everyone knows everyone. But this constitutes a major structural change for the future of Freehold Borough. We've taken safety as a major issue, we're going to have plenty of time with the fire department and the police to work out the logistics in this transition. We are not looking to jeopardize any of our resident's safety or the safety of our firemen or the safety of our police department.

Cuts of this magnitude in a small town like Freehold Borough have consequences and we cannot continue in tough and difficult economic times to ask the taxpayers to keep footing the bill when there are other ways of saving these monies. Not everyone will agree with that, but this is the decision we've made."

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Oliver, Center Street, asked where the Borough/Township border is on Route 537 going to Freehold Raceway Mall.

Ms. Higgins stated right before the Route 9 overpass.

Ms. Oliver said there is a house with holiday wreathes and lights coming up the ramp from Barkalow Avenue. She asked if someone could look into it. On another matter, she stated she lost her truck because a tree fell down two houses over and it is full of termites. She stated when the contractor came to clean her yard they told her they noticed the termites when they went to grind up the tree.

Ryan Bailey, First Assistant Chief, Freehold Fire Department, read a Resolution adopted by the Freehold Fire Department at a special meeting held earlier this evening at 6:30 PM.

"Whereas the Freehold Fire Department is an all volunteer department serving the residents, visitors, and business owners of the Borough of Freehold and by extension the County seat of Monmouth County since 1872; and

Whereas the Freehold Fire Department has, since inception in 1872, had a houseman/dispatcher to provide for dispatch of alarms and maintenance of the firehouse; and

Whereas the dispatcher receives automatic monitored alarms, verbal reports, and telephone reports of fires and requests for emergency responses and dispatches the appropriate officers, engines, ladder truck, rescue truck, and/or fire police according to adopted Freehold Fire Department Standard Operation Guidelines; and

Whereas, the department has an established response protocol based on the dispatcher's initial assessment of the incident; and

Whereas the department is an active participant, as required by established State, County, and local mutual agreements, in both mutual aid given and mutual aid received plans; and

Whereas the dispatcher, after the transmission of an alarm, continues to support on scene communications as well as monitor communication for reports of firefighter distress calls during operations; and

Whereas the houseman/dispatcher duties have included fueling of Borough vehicles including fire, police, first aid, road department, and street department trucks; and

Whereas the dispatcher, through the "Borough Local Frequency", serves the fire department, water department, road department, fire prevention bureau, code enforcement office; and the Borough's Office of Emergency Management fire annex; and

Whereas the Department operates a fully functional dispatch center in the firehouse with capabilities to serve in the event of storm, flood, or blizzard; and

Whereas the department response time has historically rivaled the response times of career departments in the State; and

Whereas the dispatcher is the only emergency service person easily available to motorists, pedestrians, and visitors on a twenty four hour basis; and

Whereas, Department operations including response time and fire scene effectiveness and efficiency are greatly enhanced by the services provided by our dispatchers;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Freehold Fire Department members called in a special meeting for the purpose of receiving a report from the Chief of the Department informing the members of this change in long standing operational procedure that;

The Department opposes the elimination of the dispatcher/houseman position and recommends that no change be made to the existing dispatch and communication procedure, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor and Council before their vote on this issue.”

Barry Fulmer, Ramon Boulevard, Freehold Township, stated he read in The News Transcript on March 3, 2010, that the Mayor and Council is striving to make Freehold Borough a friendlier place for bicyclists. He stated the passing of Agenda Item No. 10, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program, will be a great addition and he hopes the Borough will push for the extension of the Henry Hudson Trail.

Mayor Wilson stated the Borough would look into it.

Mr. Fulmer asked if there was a liaison for this project.

Mayor Wilson stated after the meeting Mr. Fulmer should give his information to the Borough Clerk.

Alyssa O’Brien, 62 Court Street, stated the house next door to her, 64 Court Street has been abandoned for over a year since the fire. She stated she called code enforcement to tell them that this home is a safety hazard, there are quality of life issues. She stated if her home was on fire, the firemen would not be able to get to her home because of the 20 foot crater in the ground, which is now flooded due to all of the rain.

Mayor Wilson stated the Borough is in the process of a lawsuit with that particular home because of the fire and he told Mrs. O’Brien that he would give her a complete update tomorrow.

Charles Gormally, Attorney with Brach Eichler, LLC, Roseland, New Jersey, stated that tonight he is here on behalf of the Freehold Landlords Association. He stated he has been working closely with the Administrator and the Borough Attorney with respect to the current license and registration ordinance in town. He stated that he has found some defects with the ordinance and he has brought them to the council’s attention. He looks forward to working with council in an effort to get the ordinance revised

Mr. Gormally stated that unfortunately it looks like the Borough is looking to get substantial revenues in next years budget from licensing fees. This is one of the problems we have with this ordinance both in terms of the size of the fee currently being charged, which is the single largest licensing fee he has seen in the State of New Jersey for landlord licensing. He stated he also has the honor of representing the New Jersey Apartment Association, which is a statewide organization that represents the multi-family industry. He stated that Freehold Borough does not want to have the dubious distinction of charging the highest licensing fees in the State of New Jersey. He brought this to the attention of the committee and will continue to work on this in an effort to get the issue resolved. He would like to have this issue resolved before the next licensing cycle which begins in July.

Mr. Gormally stated the second issue he is dealing with is the manner in which the fee has been assessed. The Borough ordinance is silent as to how it should be assessed and yet apparently it is being assessed on a per building basis as opposed to a per owner basis, which has no support in the ordinance. He stated there are some pretty substantial problems that they are looking into and they will continue to work with your committee in an effort to resolve them. Mr. Gormally stated the regulatory relationship between the municipality and the multi-family industry in Freehold Borough deals with a rather unique portion of the Borough ordinance which makes the landlords vicariously liable for the actions of their tenants. He stated what this means is that rather than trying to address the tenant behavior which might be a code enforcement issue, or an issue that presents a problem for the next door neighbor. With all problems the Borough takes the approach of citing the landlord. While landlords have an obligation to maintain their property, the principle focus of behavioral issues and violations of property need to be addressed to the tenant and only when the tenants have failed to respond should the landlords be brought into the mix and notified that a violation is occurring at the property.

Leroy LaBarrie, 8 Hull Avenue, stated that Mr. Gormally just discussed an issue that he feels Mr. Gormally does not have the background to deal with. He stated most of the landlords in Freehold Borough are absentee landlords and once the landlord leaves the property their rental property becomes a rooming house with many people living there.

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

#### RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto absent. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson called upon the members of the council for their comments.

Councilman Kane stated as Chairman of the Finance Committee, the committee met with the fire department, the three fire chiefs and the department president last Wednesday. He stated he opened the meeting by saying we're experiencing, not only our town, our state and the entire country unprecedented financial times right now. We are going through some issues that we've never had. The bottom line is what we are facing in this budget review is the State forcing towns to rethink the way they do business. The State wants municipalities to think more about shared services. The past few years the State has been encouraging municipalities to merge towns. We have heard Freehold Borough and Freehold Township in every one of these discussions. All of us have a soft spot for the fire department. He stated he was a member for a long time. We have two council members who are fire department members. It is tough to make these types of decisions, but we have to. We owe it to our residents to make these hard financial decisions. He stated we all need to work together and figure out how to make it work.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she is the Fire Commissioner and has been for many years and is married to a man who for over 30 years served as a volunteer firefighter in this town. The fire department is and has always been in her heart. She stated this is truly an emotional issue with all of the council. She thinks it is important for everybody to understand that this was not an easy decision to make with both the fire department and the police department, but it was a unanimous decision with the mayor and council. When she fought years ago to keep the dispatchers at the firehouse working 24 hours a day it was a different financial climate. She stated that this has been discussed, options have been reviewed, and we've seen it coming for awhile, at one point we even refused to talk about it and right now it is something that has to be done. Councilwoman Shutzer stated she cannot find another way around this. She stated it was very difficult to make a decision based on realism as opposed to idealism.

Councilman Newman stated the Historic Preservation Committee is currently in the process of looking for people for their preservation and restoration awards. He stated if any resident knows anyone who is qualified the deadline is April 20, 2010. He stated he is also the liaison to the Rental Property Review Board and that he has heard from the Freehold Landlords Association on a few occasions. He stated right now the review board is in the process of working on a complaint form for tenants to address and to utilize the review board in the future.

Councilman Newman stated the budget was a tough decision for everyone here but we need to move forward. He stated he would like to explore the idea of a citizen's budget committee sometime in the future.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Borough has received a 36% cut in State aid over the last three years. He stated when he was in his twenties he was laid off with no notice. He really feels for the people that are going to be affected by this because this is a terrible economy to try and find a job. But, the Borough really needs to look at the big picture. We have been handed a letter that stated we are not going to get \$321,000.00. The council had to make a tough decision. There was discussion about doing this next year. We've discussed that right now there will be a phone message taker at the police department and a person during the day at the fire department, Monday through Friday. He stated that he doesn't know what next year will bring. If we get hit with something like this again, we're going to have to make deeper cuts. We've been doing things to try to lower the cost of doing business in the Borough. He stated the mayor talked about recycling costs and garbage collection and that he attends a meeting once a month for the Central Jersey Council of Governments on Shared Services. He stated 37 municipalities attended this meeting and it is a "think-tank" about what we are going to do different. He stated one of things they've talked about is pulling together with seven or eight towns to try and get a lower health care premium. He stated one of the things they are working on is putting a chart on our website which shows where the money is spent. He stated 39 cents of every dollar goes to public safety, police, fire and code enforcement. This is the biggest piece of the pie and when you're the biggest piece of the pie, you get a lot of scrutiny. He stated he is disappointed because earlier in the year we sent a resolution to the governor saying that people who make over \$400,000.00 a year should continue being taxed. This tax brought in \$1.1 million dollars per year. The governor let this expire.

Mayor Wilson stated that the “Millionaires Tax” would save New Jersey \$1.1 billion dollars per year.

Councilman Sims thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He stated the decision tonight is personal for him, as well. He serves this town wearing two hats; one as a member of the fire department and the other as a member of the governing body. Councilman Sims stated that you can see by the figures these cuts are very drastic and no one of up here tonight likes this decision. We have been left with no other choice, this is not a personal decision it is a financial decision. Public safety has always been a concern and priority in this town.

Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this evening, especially the members of the fire department and the civility that they have shown here this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj