

**MINUTES FOR THE MAY 17, 2010 WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD AT 7:00 PM
51 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Michael Wilson, Councilman Michael DiBenedetto, Councilman Kevin Kane, Councilman John Newman, Councilman George Schnurr, Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and Councilman Jaye Sims.

Absent: None

Also present were Business Administrator Joseph B. Bellina, Borough Attorney Kerry E. Higgins, Police Chief Mitchell E. Roth and Borough Clerk Traci L. DiBenedetto.

Mayor Wilson stated he was going to skip around the Agenda and do the school board resolutions first and then open the meeting up for public comment.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Michenfelder, 30 Jackson Street, read a speech regarding the teachers and school budget. Mr. Michenfelder stated that he hasn't been working for the past two years but still manages to run the Racers Club, which is in its 18th year. He stated the kids today are always going to be different from the kids 18 years ago but maybe we, as adults, can be an example to them.

Bob Taylor, 13 Kiawah Avenue, made a complaint regarding the children walking by his house after they get out school. He had to call the police today because they are damaging his property. Mr. Taylor stated that about a year ago, Councilman Schnurr said to him that he should not worry about this. Mr. Taylor stated he has lived in that house for 50 years and nobody should have to put up with property damage from kids walking home from school.

Councilman Schnurr stated he never condoned property damage.

On another matter, regarding the Freehold Fire Department, Mr. Taylor stated that Councilman Schnurr said the Fire Department had an idea what would be going on with the dispatching before they were told on April 14th. Mr. Taylor stated the Fire Department did not know anything about this until the April 14th meeting.

Mr. Taylor stated that Councilman Kane suggested the volunteer fire department should go out and raise money to buy their own equipment. Back in 1873, the town decided they wanted to be part of the fire department. This fire department is a municipal

controlled fire department. The municipality is responsible for equipment not the department.

Elaine Isner, 22 Dogwood Lane stated she is a teacher in the Freehold Regional High School District. She stated, not only for herself, but also for many teachers in the district, that had the teachers been offered the same option as the administrators that is to give a donation back to the district without opening their contracts, they would gladly take a pay freeze. Their objection was not to the pay freeze itself but to the opening of the contract. The pay freeze that the administrators took did not require them to open their contract. Opening a contract means that every item in the contract is open and on the table. It is not a one year deal. It is a matter of over \$100,000.00 for the life time career of that teacher. Ms. Isner stated that she personally and many of the teachers she works with really want to see their colleagues re-hired. They do not want to see classes of 40 to 50 students. She stated the teachers are there because they care about the children. If there were another option offered to the teachers in the regional district to take a pay freeze without opening the contract, she believes they would accept it.

Bobbie Brandeo, 21 Oak Street stated she is a single parent who is on the verge of losing her job. Her daughter, who attends Freehold Intermediate School, has been bullied for the past 9 months. The superintendent, principal, vice principal and teachers have done nothing about this. It is now in the hands of her attorney. Ms. Brandeo stated her daughter has been threatened, harassed and as of Friday, was suspended for five days for defending herself. Ms. Brandeo asked mayor and council what they are going to do to provide a safe environment and good education for her daughter.

Tom Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, asked mayor and council if they have changed their mind regarding the dispatching of the fire department. The fire department needs a dispatcher on duty 24 hours a day. Mr. Baldwin stated there are other ways to save money, for example, the legal department. From what Mr. Baldwin understands, the Borough has a full time attorney and in an emergency situation it is more important to have a dispatcher rather than someone representing the town. Mr. Baldwin feels the fire department and the dispatchers are very essential to the welfare and safety of our community.

Julie Kudish, 30 Barkalow Avenue stated mayor and council just approved the resolution for the Freehold Regional High School District budget. She asked if this meant there will be a reduction in salaries for athletics at the high school and regular program salaries at the high school. She asked if there will be less teachers, no sports and a reduction in some after school activities.

Mr. Bellina explained that everything reflected in the resolution came from Superintendent Wasser and what he said today was that athletic sports were not being cut. A few athletic trainers are but not the sports. The other thing is library services are going to be cut, along with some teachers. They will be raising the enrollment in classes and he may reduce some course selections that have had very few participants. As far as the music programs and sports programs, they are staying.

Ms. Kudish questioned the only athletic cuts we are agreeing with are the salaries of athletic trainers or coaches also.

Mayor Wilson stated it is for the athletic trainers. Mayor Wilson explained Freehold Borough is one of eight participating municipalities. What we did tonight in our resolution was reduce the budget by 2.6 million dollars. Several other towns are voting to reduce the budget by 4.5 million dollars. I can tell you what we are going by is the superintendent's recommendations. Whatever happens when this budget is sent to the State is anybody's guess. As far as the sports, there would be three trainers. The music department will not be affected. All bets are off once we leave this room because we don't know what will happen.

Ms. Kudish stated they were told "everything" is being cut.

Reggie Sims, 120 Broadway, stated mayor and council should review the fact they are going to have 3 trainers roaming between all of the high schools in the district. That would make it almost impossible to expect any kind of medical treatment to be done in a proper manner. There should be better clarification from the superintendent on this.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

3. ROUTINE TRANSACTIONS-SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA (See Attachment I).

See the permanent minute book for the minutes and the resolution book for the attachments.

4. SIGN DESIGN – HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE.

Councilman Newman stated he wanted to withdraw this item from the agenda.

5. LEAD FOR DIVERSITY – PRESENTATION BY FREEHOLD BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

The students presented mayor and council with a hand out they prepared on the Lead For Diversity Program. The students who gave the presentation were Sara, Alex Matt, Jackie and Justin. They explained they are part of a group called Lead for Diversity at Freehold Borough High School. These students attended a camp in the Poconos called American Conference on Diversity. Some of the topics that are touched upon are

authority, sexual identities/ability status, body image, sexism/gender, economic status and race issues. One particular problem that Freehold High School does deal with: the power of words. There are many derogatory words and/or statements spoken in the hallways and classrooms that are not being recognized and stopped. The mission for the year of 2009-2010 is to spread awareness of how offensive words can be and in hope, end the use of cruel words and/or statements in Freehold High School. The students explained the following activities they have done at the school: No Brand Day, Covered Mirrors, Bully-Victim Signs, Violence Prevention Presentation, Mission Transition, Bulletin Board and Video Presentation.

Mayor Wilson asked if all of the students were seniors.

They replied all except for one is a junior.

Mayor Wilson asked if this is the first year for the program.

Sara stated this is the first year that we have had a group of students and a homeroom to implement the program.

Alex stated it is really amazing what they have accomplished this year. He stated he doesn't feel that during the time he has been at the Borough High School, there are many outward acts of violence based upon race. He stated he thinks that is just the testament of the strength and will of the community to be accepting to other people.

Mayor Wilson asked if this was for the entire school or just for the incoming freshman.

Mission Transition is aimed at the freshman but the majority of their activities are aimed toward all of the students, teachers, staff and faculty.

Mayor Wilson stated this sounds like a great program.

Alex stated this program was one of his favorite things to write about in his college essays. He stated he will be attending the University of Miami in the fall and he knows it will be just as diverse as Freehold High School and if they don't already have a program like this established there, he is going to try to start something like this.

6. LIVE WHERE YOU WORK PROGRAM UPDATE.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Live Where You Work Program is a program of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency. It's an innovative homebuyer mortgage incentive program. It provides a 5% forgivable down payment in closing cost assistance, partnered with a low interest fixed rate mortgage. He explained you have to be purchasing a home and employed in Freehold Borough. You don't have to be a first time homebuyer and any part of the town is eligible. There will be a press conference held on Wednesday, May 26th at 10:00 AM in the front of Borough Hall. Councilman

Schnurr stated, for example, the income limit for a family of three is \$119,000.00. If you wanted to buy an existing one family house, the purchase price limit is \$525,090.00. It is a pretty generous program.

7. FREEHOLD BOROUGH PHOTO GALLERY CONTEST.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Borough's web-site is lacking a photo gallery. He thought we should have a contest where people could submit their photos of the Borough and we can post them on our web-site as part of our photo gallery. Councilman Schnurr suggested sending something out with the water bill letting the residents know and that they could e-mail the photos to the appropriate person at Borough Hall.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Sims:

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A. PERSONNEL MATTERS.

B. LITIGATION.

C. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

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

9. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Kane moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer, with All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci L. DiBenedetto, RMC
BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD