

**HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2012
7:30 P.M.**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of January 3, 2012 was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post On January 5, 2011 and advertised in said newspapers on January 7, 2011, posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 6, 2011 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – by Mayor Porto at 7:45 P.M.
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL** - present were Committeeman Boettcher, Committeeman MacLachlan, Committeeman Dickinson, Deputy Mayor Fitzpatrick and Mayor Porto. Also present were Township Administrator/Clerk Paul Tuliano, Jr. and Solicitor Theodore Costa.
4. **MINUTES**
 - A. **Approval of Regular Committee Minutes of December 13, 2011**
Motion: Committeeman Boettcher. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. All yes.
5. **RESOLUTIONS**
 - A. **Resolution 2012-38-1** – Closing Municipal Complex Fields on Certain Dates
Motion: Committeeman Boettcher. Second: Committeeman Dickinson. All yes.
 - A. **Resolution 2012-39-1** – A Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Bids and Approval of Specifications for Professional Services for Revaluation Firm
Mr. Tuliano explained this is needed to advertise for bids for the revaluation. The bids will be due back before 10 AM on January 25, 2012. At that time the bids will be opened and we will have a pretty good idea of what it will cost us.

Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Committeeman Dickinson. All yes.

- C. **Resolution 2012-40-1** – Resolution of the Township of Hainesport Authorizing Transfer of Funds During the Last Two Months of the Current Fiscal Year and the First Three Months of the Subsequent Year

Motion: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeeman Boettcher. All yes.

- D. **Resolution 2012-41-1** – A Resolution to Terminate a Contract with the RecycleRewards Program

Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Committeeman Boettcher. All yes.

- E. **Resolution 2012-42-1** – A Resolution Authorizing a Contribution to the Sacred Heart CYO Baseball and Softball Association

Mayor Porto made a motion to table the resolution. Second: Committeeman Boettcher. All yes.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- **Dottie Myers**, 1335 Deacon Road – said there has been communication among the residents of Deacon Road and the new development along with some of the other people about the speed humps on Deacon Road. On 12/20/11 she sent a notice to the mayor, which he acknowledged. She asked the other committee members if they were aware of the letter and they replied in the affirmative. The letter concerned the size of the speed humps. Mrs. Myers asked if the township was going to do anything about it. She then went on to talk about an Assembly bill from the State of New Jersey which determines specifications concerning speed humps. One of the requirements of this bill is that a municipal engineer must certify in writing to the commissioner of transportation and she asked if that was done. Mr. Tuliano said the speed humps were built to DOT standards and they are part of the park project and asked if the planner, who is sitting in the room, would be able to answer her questions better than he could. **Michael Wisnoski**, Ragan Design Group, did come up to help answer Mrs. Myers' questions. Ragan Design was the planning consultant for the park project and the speed humps on Deacon Road and they were aware of the statute and followed it. Initially they had the humps at 3 inches but there were a number of comments that the drivers were not slowing down when they went over them. For that reason, the humps were raised to 4 inches. They were measured and that information was sent to the state. There has been no information back from the state. Mrs. Myers noted that

in the statute it stated that the speed humps “should be in the interest and safety and well being of the public”. Mayor Porto said there had been a great deal of interest from the community about children and people coming to and from the park. Several residents of Deacon came to the meetings and spoke in favor of speed humps to slow the traffic down. She asked if there was a traffic count done and Mr. Wisnoski said he did not think that it was. He went on to say that after many complaints from residents and discussion with the State Police the township decided to place the speed humps where they are. Mrs. Myers continued to voice her opposition to them.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

- **Mr. Tuliano** said he hoped everyone had seen the new sign at the entrance of our park by the concession stand and bathroom facilities and that it looks very nice. He then said the committee needs to discuss the method that will be used to pay for the revaluation. Because the county ordered it the township can pay for it over a period of 5 years. If it is paid for over the 5 years then more than likely we would bond for it and will have to consider the payment for the bond through an increase in taxes. We will know how much it will cost on January 25th but right now, based on information from the Tax Assessor, it will be about \$75.00 per line item and we have 2755 line items for a cost of approximately \$210,000. That depends on how the bids come in. Mr. Tuliano said the committee can decide to go with paying for the revaluation over the 5 years or decide to simply “bite the bullet” and budget for the revaluation in 2012. There was a great deal of discussion between the committee members and Mr. Tuliano and it was decided to wait for the bids to come in before deciding the method of payment. Mr. Tuliano reminded the committee that the township is working with a deadline to have the revaluation completed.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

- **Mr. Costa** congratulated Mayor Porto and Deputy Mayor Fitzpatrick for their appointments; he expects great things in the future since they have done so well in the past. He also gave a very well earned thank you to Committeeman Dickinson for the fine job he did as mayor and then said it has been a privilege to work with the 2 senior members of the committee, Committeemen Boettcher and MacLachlan. He said each of the members of the committee add so much to the table in different ways and there are few boards in this county that have this wealth of experience and knowledge and it is his privilege to work with them.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- **Committeeman Dickinson** – again congratulated Mayor Porto and Deputy Mayor Fitzpatrick on their appointments.
- **Deputy Mayor Fitzpatrick** – wanted to clarify the reason the committee chose to terminate a contract with the Recycle Rewards Program; it was not done without thought and consideration. The idea of the program is spectacular and if worked properly, it would have definitely paid dividends to the residents and the township; it was costing us more than it was worth so it was terminated.
- **Committeeman MacLachlan** – passed on the wedding vows he had recently discovered in his bin to Mayor Porto; he apologized to Committeeman Dickinson for not giving them to him last year. He said it must have been an oversight.
- **Committeeman Boettcher** – said he wanted to echo what Deputy Mayor Fitzpatrick said earlier. Mr. Tuliano interjected that even without the residents using the Recycle Rewards Program Hainesport Township is in the upper 10% participation in the county.
- **Mayor Porto** – said the discussion the committee had earlier about saving money by not borrowing for the cost of the revaluation is an example of how well the committee members have managed the budgets over the years. When he joined the committee the economy was roaring and the revenue was coming in but the committee followed fiscal restraint; we understood that it's not going to be a sunny day every day. Unfortunately, the recession came upon us and the state aid has been cut; because of their decisions when times were good and that our current committee continues the tradition of fiscal restraint we are now standing on a sound budget, whereas some other municipalities are looking at bad conditions where they may have to reduce services and the quality of those services to the residents. We are proud to stand here today and say that we can provide quality services and keep Hainesport's tax rates one of the lowest in Burlington County for municipal taxes. Mayor Porto also mentioned that in December he had attended a meeting opposing the 20% water hike being imposed by New Jersey American Water. The county government will be sending out resolutions and petitions to oppose the rate hike in the coming weeks and he would like the committee to consider that for the February meeting. The rate hike would not only affect the residents but also the township because we have to keep the water in the hydrants and in the township buildings. These are all costs that would have to be passed on to the residents. We need to stand unified in the opposition to this large increase. It was noted at that meeting that they have received over 50% increase in their rates in the past few years and they have been able to expand their operations and their stock has doubled in price during the recession and the company is very strong financially and does not need the increase. The Burlington County Freeholders have stood in opposition to it and this is something we will be looking at in the next few months; we may join that fight through formal resolution or go throughout the town circulating petitions to help stop the increase during these dire financial times. Committeeman Boettcher

interjected that the bill for water for the township this month is \$8,273.36; just to keep water in the hydrants is almost \$8,000. Mayor Porto thanked his fellow running mate Committeeman Dickinson upon being sworn in for a second term and handing over the mayor's duties to him and thanked Committeeman Fitzpatrick for serving as Deputy Mayor; he thinks he will do a good job.

15. **BILL LIST**

- **Mr. Tuliano** asked if he could add a bill to the bill list. Every year Scout Troop 5, as part of their community involvement patrols a township street and cleans that street; the township gives them a check for \$300.00 out of Clean Communities.

Motion to add the bill and approve the bill list: Committeeman Boettcher. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. Voice vote: all yes.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. **Resolution 2011-43-1** - Resolution to Enter into Executive Session, if Necessary.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Committeeman Boettcher. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Voice vote: all yes.

17. **ADJOURNMENT @ 8:22 P.**