

Township of South Hackensack  
Bergen County, New Jersey  
May 20, 2010 7:30 P.M.  
Special Meeting  
MINUTES

James Anzevino, Mayor.....Present  
Walter Eckel, Jr., Deputy Mayor .....Present  
Gary Brugger .....Present  
Frank Cagas .....Present  
Gregorio Maceri.....Present

Also present:  
David V. Nasta, Esq., Municipal Attorney  
Linda LoPiccolo, Municipal Clerk

### Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Anzevino called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He advised that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act adequate notice of the meeting had been provided to *The Record*, *The Herald and News* and by posting the meeting notice on the bulletin board in the clerk's office where notices are customarily posted. Everyone saluted the flag. The municipal clerk called the roll.

The clerk advised that she received correspondence that day from police officer Daniel O. Breslin signed by Peter Bongiovanni, Robert Czarniecki and himself. The correspondence was accepted unanimously by motion made by Anzevino, seconded by Brugger.

David Nasta advised that the Township Committee could either comply with the request of the individuals to have the discussion in public, or invite those who received written notification to sit in on the closed session. The Committee proceeded to discuss the matter in open session complying with the request of those notified.

Mayor Anzevino advised that he sat down on April 27<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the police department and asked for \$170,000 reduction in their budget. The chief did not respond to the request nor make any recommendation regarding budget reductions. The layoffs are effective July 1<sup>st</sup> noting that the Township Committee would meet anytime with PBA representatives to try to negotiate a settlement and hopefully save the employees from layoffs. In the 2010 budget a 0% increase has been budgeted, REAP has been eliminated; Homestead Rebate has been eliminated; school budget increase of \$400,000 will be realized in this year's budget from the 2009-2010 school year. Those items equal a \$1750.00 tax increase to the average home, without taking into consideration the township-wide revaluation that takes effect this year resulting in 303 homes and 420 properties overall that will realize an additional tax increase – this all with a flat municipal budget. Of the 1.3 million dollars in surplus, \$525,000 will be applied to the budget to offset the amount necessary to raise by taxation, leaving \$800,000 in surplus.

The Township currently has over 1 million dollars in anticipated tax appeal refund liability for years 2006-2009 leaving a shortfall of over \$200,000.

Gary Brugger remarked that taking this action was the hardest thing he has had to do in his life. Nothing has prepared him for this. He said that he is extremely upset about this since none of the employees deserved it. He remarked that other cost cutting measures have been taken including the elimination of a part time fire inspector's position, elimination of one property maintenance inspector, reduced the deputy court administrator/violations clerk by half; administration has been cut from 4 full time employees to 3 full time employees; operating budgets have been once again reduced. He has asked the Ambulance Corps to stop increasing their membership to reduce those costs associated with LOSAP, clothing allowance, etc. The reductions in the public works department are ongoing. Walter Eckel stated that he was truly sorry for the layoffs.

## Resolutions

**Resolution No. 2010-113 of the South Hackensack Township Committee to Terminate an Employee**

Offered: Eckel

Second: Anzevino

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anzevino, Brugger, Cagas, Eckel      Nays: Maceri

**Resolution No. 2010-114 of the South Hackensack Township Committee to Terminate an Employee**

Offered: Eckel

Second: Brugger

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anzevino, Brugger, Cagas, Eckel      Nays: Maceri

**Resolution No. 2010-115 of the South Hackensack Township Committee to Terminate an Employee**

Offered: Anzevino

Second: Eckel

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anzevino, Brugger, Cagas, Eckel      Nays: Maceri

## Public Comments

Mrs. Kathy Rudolph, 347 Chestnut Avenue – Questioned why police officer Breslin was hired in 2009 when the Township did not have the money to pay him. Anzevino replied that the Township Committee was not aware in 2009 just how bad it would be in 2010. She objected to taxpayers paying for the governing body's medical benefits. She objected to the township using police employee layoffs to negotiate a better contract with police.

Dolly Montenegro, 57 Phillips Avenue – Objected to police layoffs because she felt that it would be a safety issue. She suggested that the Committee make other cuts in other areas.

Loretta D'Ambrosio, 444 Taylor Avenue – Read a prepared statement expressing support for the 3 employees in jeopardy of being terminated. She spoke specifically about her son in law Peter Bongiovanni stating that he was dedicated and was flexible and performed well. She was disappointed that all employees did not share equally in resolving the budget problems. All employees are paid well with excellent benefits and asked if all could not sacrifice and give back a little bit.

Henry Rudolph, 347 Chestnut Avenue – Asked what the overtime compensation will be to compensate for the officer loss. Anzevino replied that there will be no overtime. The chief will get a mandate that there is to be no overtime he will have to make it work. When Mr. Rudolph tried to raise questions about the raises to the school superintendent, Anzevino replied that those matters were not decided by the governing body and he suggested that he discuss his concerns with the board of education.

Steven Cull, Paterson, NJ - Spoke in support of the police officers to be terminated.

Kelly Maher, Tuve Lane – Objected to the governing body taking an annual salary of \$2,700 and full medical benefits and suggested that they eliminate those things prior to laying off police officers.

Pat Spadavecchia, 4 Park Street – Objected to school construction project, school costs and tax increases from school costs. Anzevino responded that the school and its budget has nothing to do with the municipal budget, and the township has no control over the school budget other than cutting it when it is defeated and this year it was cut by the governing body by over \$700,000.

Lois King, 39 Calicooneck Road – objected to police layoffs

Brugger motioned; Anzevino seconded and the Committee unanimously agreed to end the meeting to public comments at 8:25 p.m.

## Adjournment

Anzevino motioned; Eckel seconded and the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda LoPiccolo  
Municipal Clerk



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Peter Bongiovanni shall be terminated effective July 1, 2010.

Offered: Anzevino

Second: Eckel

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anzevino, Brugger, Cagas, Eckel Nays: Maceri

Date: May 20, 2010