

April 11, 2011

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 11, 2011

A meeting of Township Committee was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Princeton Township Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of the 2011 Schedule of Regular Meetings. On January 2, 2011 at 1:15 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

The Township Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mayor Goerner and Ms.Lempert and Messrs. Liverman and Miller.

Absent: Ms. Nemeth.

Also Present: Messrs Kiser, Pascale, Schmierer and Chief Buchanan.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously by those present.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously by those present.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Contains items of a routine nature, which are approved by a single vote.

a. Bills & Claims

b. Music Amplification Requests:

- Princeton University Reunions, May 26, 27, 28, 29, 2011, 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

\*65<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of 1946 – Forbes College

\*60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of 1951– Forbes College

\*55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of 1956 – Scully Courtyard

\*30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of 1981 – Butler College Courtyard

- Linda Sutton, for a wedding a Mountain Lakes, June 4, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

- Eric Lemmo for a graduation party, 15 Oakland Street, May 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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- c. Professional Services Agreement:
  - Karen Cayci, Esq., Special Counsel, Princeton Regional Planning Board
  - Gabel Associates (Revised)
  
- d. Appointment: Brian McDonald, Citizens Finance Advisory Committee

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Lempert seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

(Bills & Claims and Resolutions appended to this set of minutes.)

### **ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Goerner read by title an ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$3,166,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,189,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Kiser said that the Princeton Township Engineering Department has prepared its capital request for 2011. This request primarily involves appropriating funds for improvements to Cherry Valley Road and Hillside Avenue, Grover Avenue and Roper Road, Battle Road West and Battle Road Circle and monies will be appropriated for materials and equipment so that the Public Works Department can do paving projects this upcoming summer.

Mayor Goerner opened the public hearing.

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously by those present.

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## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Goerner read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROOF AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MOUNTAIN LAKES HOUSE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL BONDS OR NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,500.00 THEREFOR IN ORDER TO FINANCE A PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.

Mr. Schmierer said that the Mountain Lakes holding Corporation is scheduled to complete construction of the new roofs over the Mountain Lakes House terrace and other related improvements in order to accommodate their first scheduled spring wedding on May 7, 2011. He said that as construction progressed however, additional expenses have been incurred for skylight work, roof decking work, metal fascia and related improvements. In order to complete the project, the Mountain Lakes Holding Corporation has requested that the Township consider a Supplemental Bond Ordinance appropriating an additional \$30,000. The Mountain Lakes Holding Corporation will be responsible for repayment of both the original bond ordinance and the supplemental if approved by Township Committee.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 25, 2011.

## **WORK SESSION**

Revaluation Commission, Report

The Revaluation Subcommittee consisting of Ms. Lempert, Mr. Liverman, and citizen members Peter Marks, Michael Reily and Michael Weber offered a report to Township Committee regarding the recent revaluation process. The commission members said that revaluation is a highly subjective process, noting that reasonable people can come up with different opinions about values. The commission acknowledged that while taxes on some modest properties went up as a result of the revaluation process, it did not mean that the process was flawed.

Mayor Goerner thanked all those who worked on the very comprehensive report and said that he would talk with Mayor Trotman about implementing an annual program. Mr. Miller said that the

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reevaluation was caught in "a perfect storm". Mr. Liverman said that the commission did not whitewash or rubber stamp the reevaluation process.

Dale Meade said that he disagreed the mass appraisal as being subjective and that there was a disturbing lack of oversight. He said that the mass appraisal process could have worked but didn't and that you can't put much confidence in the results. Mr. Meade said that they will get ASI records, that it would be painful but he will get them. He said that there is danger in placing too much responsibility with a citizen committee, noting that it will be easy to challenge. They said that they would have no alternative but to sue.

James Firestone said that he was very disappointed in what was being said and that there was a terrible lack of respect. He said that his group, has tried to present information to the governing bodies and the citizens group showing flaws in the reevaluation process but to no avail. Mayor Goerner said that if the data exists, the governing bodies would like to see it. Mayor Goerner said that Mr. Firestone was misleading the citizens in terms of what they expect results would be if a reevaluation was done over again.

Mr. Liverman told Mr. Firestone that he needed to meet with other real estate brokers in Princeton as they do not feel the same way as Mr. Firestone about the reevaluation. He also asked who they were suing. If you are suing us than who pays our legal fees? Mr. Liverman said that that the residents would end up paying the legal bills.

Mayor Goerner said that the reevaluation process as established by the state has problems and we'll have to agree that reevaluation is not the real problem, rather the problem is New Jersey's property tax system.

Mr. Marks said that he was tired of the conspiracy theory and that he agreed with Mayor Goerner. He said that pursuing a lawsuit is a loser and that people have to be reasonable.

Mr. Schmierer addressed the question of Open Public Records Requests that were implied unanswered. Mr. Schmierer said that he has reviewed all the requests and that the township has responded to all of them. Mr. Meade said that the township responded to some of the requests only by saying that it did not have the information from ASI.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

**RESOLUTION**

**TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION  
(Open Public Meetings Act Sec.3)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton:

1. This body will now convene into a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
  
2. The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in said session is as follows:

**Personnel/Negotiations**

3. Stated as precisely as presently possible, the following are the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said session can be disclosed to the public:

Within 90 days or upon settlement of litigation, if applicable

- Police Promotions
- Copperwood
- Valley Road Building
- Arts & Transit District

The above referenced issues were discussed by Township Committee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott  
Township Clerk