

September 27, 2011

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
September 27, 2011

A meeting of Princeton Township Committee and Princeton Borough Council was held on this date at 7:30 p.m. in the council room of the Princeton Borough Hall, 1 Monument Drive to discuss the Joint Consolidation.

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 a written notice. On April 13, 2011 at 1:00 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 Mesdames Lempert and Nemeth and Mr. Miller.

Absent: Mr. Liverman.

Also Present: Mr. Pascale.

The Borough Clerk called the roll for Princeton Borough.

Present: Mayor Trotman, and Mesdames Butler, Crumiller and Trelstad, Messers. Goldfarb, Martindell and Wilkes.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Bruschi.

Mr. Wilkes opened the joint meeting and then turned the meeting over to Anton Lahnston, Chair of the Consolidation Commission. The Commission has recommended that the consolidation question be on the ballot on November.

Members of the Commission defended their pro-consolidation position. Mr. Lahnston said that they did not make the wrong decision; they made the right decision for the community. Mr. Lahnston said that he was at the meeting to defuse myths and correct misstatements that have come up during the consolidation debate, including those about garbage pickup and transition costs.

Approximately 35 residents expressed their views regarding the consolidation issue.

Alexia Assmus said that the argument for consolidation is based on guesses, rather than research and that the projected savings is hypothetical, while the increased costs of extending garbage services are certain.

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Kate Warren,, Preserve Our Historic Borough, asked where was the cost analysis for the consolidation, questioning whether it was reasonable to believe that the dismantling and subsequent rebuilding of municipalities will only cost \$1.7 million?

Dan Preston, focused on the efficiencies that reporting to only one government would offer. He said that if we can't save money that way, than we should pack it in.

Tina Clement was concerned about the loss of checks and balances with consolidation noting that the issue should not only be about trash collection.

Dudley Sipprell, Nassau Street, said that local government and good government should not be a partisan issue. He said that a lot of people are against consolidation and they are democrats and republican are disenfranchised.

Jim Firestone said that he was worried about the Princeton that they all represent.

Sandra Persichetti, said that we are very focused on the dollar and need to put aside the money issue and focus on the efficiencies.

Alan Hegedus said that the reality of the Consolidation Commission is not necessarily reality.

Van Williams said that you can vote based on logic or you can vote based on emotion. He said that people will make that choice come November, and we will live with that outcome.

Ms. Butler thanked everyone for their comments. Mr. Liverman said that Princeton is Princeton and that people need to focus on the future. Ms. Lempert said that maintaining the status quo was getting more and more expensive. Mayor Trotman, Mayor Goerner and Mr. Miller all said that they were in favor of consolidation.

Another meeting for public comment regarding the consolidation issue will be held on October 26, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott

Township Clerk