

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
5:30 p.m.

Mayor Nagler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Nagler certified that the meeting notice was published in the Burlington County Times, sent to the Courier Post, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted in the Eastampton Township Municipal Building, all on August 19, 2009. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Present were, Mayor Keith Nagler, Deputy Mayor Jay Springer, Council Members Louise Campbell, Joseph Maroccia, and Walter Tafe. Also present were: Township Manager Scott Carew, Township Attorney Eileen Fahey and Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White.

**ROLL CALL:** Ms. Campbell, Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Springer, Mr. Tafe and Mr. Nagler

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Biagio Leopanto, 36 Willowbrook Way said he was at the Council Meeting of August 10 and after the meeting he was unclear about the voting on the road improvements, surplus issues of the Township and the tax dollars of the residents. He wrote a letter and put them in the resident's mailboxes asking them to attend the meeting to get a better understanding.

The sign in sheet is on file in the Municipal Clerks Office and made a part of the record.

Residents asked questions regarding the 2009 Municipal Budget, what the Township's future plans are regarding rising healthcare costs, taxes going up, commercial properties, open space referendum, services the Township provides, and NJ State mandates.

Township Manager Carew explained in detail how municipal budgets work and why surplus is needed. He explained how they cut half a million dollars during his time as Township Manager. He advised the residents we are looking into re-opening negotiations to have the employees pay a percentage of the healthcare costs. He explained how the school budget impacts the taxes in a municipality. He advised them on the number of shared services the Township has gone with to keep costs down. He said the Township did a full reassessment in 2005. He explained how the Township lost money in State Aide.

Township Manager Carew and Chief Financial Officer addressed the remaining questions and concerns of the residents that were in attendance.

Mayor Nagler explained that the Township currently does not have a big commercial ratable and businesses are not looking to build at the moment due to the economics. He said they are trying to stabilize the budget, but costs are rising and the Township has State mandates to comply with.

Chief Financial Officer Mingin said it is a fifteen year payback for the pension deferral starting in 2012.

Councilman Tafe asked how the pension deferral would affect them next year. The pension deferral is \$163,000.

The Chief Financial Officer said there would be a deficient, but they are working on positive items such as the savings in the Court, bidding on liens, paying off bond notes and, the public question passing.

Mayor Nagler asked Mr. Mingin to provide an estimated payment schedule for how the pension deferral is going to be paid back.

Mayor Nagler asked Mr. Carew to get back to them by November 9 if the unions are re-opening the contract negotiations.

Chief Mingin asked Council if they have any issues with the police overtime.

Mayor Nagler said that they do not want it to come as a surprise when they approve the bill list; they want to know ahead of time. They do not have any problems with the police overtime.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution R2009-88                      Amendment Number 1 of the 2009 Municipal Budget

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Resolution R2009-88.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Springer, Nagler  
                  Nays - Maroccia  
                  Abstain - Tafe

Councilman Maroccia thanked Chief Financial Officer Mingin and thanked the Mayor. He said the questions and concerns brought up tonight from the residents are real problems of the residents and Mr. Tafe already said they have to think outside the box and it would not change year to year.

Councilman Tafe said he shares some of the same concerns as Mr. Maroccia. This was a very difficult decision for him; he said the pension deferral and furloughs are a big mistake. The 12.5 percent increase for the Public Works Department was a mistake as well especially during a recession; even though it was not a lot of money, the percentage was big.

Mayor Nagler said he has a problem with the pension deferral as well, but he understands it was conditions of the extraordinary aide and the budget amendment presented to them to accept the

aide and add in the pension deferral so it would cut the budget. He also pays over \$18,000 a year to insure his family. The staff needs to contribute to their benefits and no more free rides. He is only voting yes because it is a budget amendment.

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2009-88 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Springer, Nagler  
Abstain - Tafe  
Nays - Maroccia

There being three (3) ayes, one (1) nay and one (1) abstention, Resolution R2009-88 was approved.

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by TAFE giving direction to Mr. Carew to contact both bargaining units and re-open contract negotiations and have a full report back to Council on Monday, November 9, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler  
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion passed.

Resolution R2009-89                      Closed Session (Matters Relating to Litigation. Negotiation and the Attorney – Client Privilege regarding pending litigation of potential appeal with Homes of Hope decision)

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA that Resolution R2009-89 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler  
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-89 was approved.

**STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER directing Township Attorney Fahey to inform the attorneys that the Township does not wish to appeal the decision at this time.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Nagler  
Abstain - Tafe  
Nays - None

There being four (4) ayes, one (1) abstention and no nays, the motion passed.

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by TAFE to direct Township Manager Carew to proceed with an open letter regarding the Hopes of Home decision, put on the website and send to the newspapers.

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL to adjourn the open session meeting at 8:08 P.M.

*Kim-Marie White*

Kim-Marie White  
Municipal Clerk

*Keith Nagler*

Keith Nagler  
Mayor

Approved: October 13, 2009