

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 – 6:08 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Deputy Mayor Burd called the meeting to order stating that notice of the meeting had been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and The Times (the official newspapers) on March 12, 2010 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

ROLL CALL: Those answering the roll call of the Deputy Municipal Clerk:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnson, Murphy, Sandom, Deputy Mayor Burd

ABSENT: Mayor Markulec

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/Engineer Pogorzelski, CFO Borges, Deputy Municipal Clerk Gompf

ALSO PRESENT: Public Works Director Silvestrov

PUBLIC SECTION

Christopher Klim and Andrea Seymour, residents of Woodens Lane appeared before the Committee. Mr. Klim presented photographs representing the condition of Woodens Lane and noted it had significantly deteriorated since January of this year. He pointed out that the roadway was impassible at one point and delivery trucks were unable to drive down the road. Mr. Klim and Ms. Seymour commented on heavy service vehicles and traffic generated by the Howell Farm which has contributed to the poor roadway conditions. Mr. Klim stated the Public Works Department is continuously filling potholes and expressed his opinion that it could not be cost effective to the township to maintain the road in its present condition. He presented a petition to the Township Committee signed by Woodens Lane and township residents in favor of paving the road.

Mr. Pogorzelski advised that traffic data and costs associated with chip sealing the roadway would be obtained and he will report his findings to the Committee.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET REVIEW

Ms. Borges reported on the New Jersey Pension Reform bill signed by Governor Chris Christie. She explained several areas within the bill that included the definition of full and part time employees; changes for newly hired employees with regard to retiree benefits; a requirement for all current local employees to contribute at least 1.5 percent of their current base salary toward health benefits after expiration of their current contract; a measure to cap payout of sick leave at \$15,000 to an employee at the time of their retirement; and a limit to carry over one year's worth of vacation time for new local government employees. Ms. Borges explained points in a local finance notice with regard to the 4 percent levy and certain exceptions to that cap. She also commented on a best practices program being developed which will require municipalities to comply with such practices by November 2010.

Ms. Borges explained the 2010 Municipal Budget and issues that included the following: requests for monies not factored into the budget from the Veteran's Association and Deer Management Task Force; water and sewer utility budgets; reserve calculation; flat tax rate of 27 cents; fire district and open space tax; school and county tax estimates; current fund budget with respect to revenue; compensation for reduction in state aid; expected revenue from Capital Health System; transfer of monies from the Recreation Trust Fund into the Current Fund;

increase of 4 percent for shared services agreements; debt service repayment; and outstanding notes recommended to be bonded in general capital; open space, and affordable housing. Ms. Borges noted there is approximately \$24.8 million ready to go to the market and questioned the Committee as to whether it should go out to market at one time. She also asked the Committee whether it was in their interest to hire a financial advisor to help structure the debt.

Mr. Pogorzelski stated that Mayor Markulec had requested the Committee hold the Agenda meeting on April 5th to discuss future agenda items such as the proposed Teen Center, Small Lot Agriculture and the Jacobs Creek Bridge. It was the consensus that the Committee schedule its next budget meeting in connection with the Agenda meeting on April 5th at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SECTION

John Negia, a resident of Timberlane Drive, commented on an e-mail he sent regarding a drainage issue on Timberlane Drive and his request for its inclusion in the capital budget. He expressed safety concerns for both children and motorists with respect to a large ditch with a 2 to 3 foot drop on Timberlane Drive and asked if the project would be funded in the near future. Mr. Pogorzelski advised he would put together a cost estimate for the most appropriate solution to the issue.

At 8:03 p.m., Motion by Johnson, seconded by Murphy to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

LAURIE E. GOMPF
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK