

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

Friday, May 5, 2006 - 12:15 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE - Mayor Sandom 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 May 3, 2006 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Murphy, Sandahl, Mayor Sandom
Iorio (arrived at 12:35 p.m.)

ABSENT: Niederer

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Hilling, CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Bielawski,
Attorney Goodell

At 12:16 p.m. Mayor Sandom called a recess.

At 12:35 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

RESOLUTION #06-148. Read by title.

Mr. Goodell explained that the purpose of the special meeting was for Committee action on a revised resolution authorizing a professional services agreement for review of the defeated 2006/2007 Hopewell Valley Regional School District budget by an accounting firm. Discussion was held as to the rationale of the percentage split changes. The revised resolution shares the cost among the three municipalities as follows: Hopewell Township 84.3%; Pennington Borough 9.2%; and Hopewell Borough 6.5%. Mr. Goodell noted that insofar as the municipalities are obligated to certify an appropriate tax levy on or before May 19, 2006, time is crucial to approve the professional services agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Iorio, Murphy, Sandahl, Mayor Sandom

NOES: None

ABSENT: Niederer

RESOLUTION #06-148

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
(SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW)**

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough all comprise the Hopewell Valley Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2006, the voters of the Regional School District rejected the proposed school budget; and

WHEREAS, state law requires that the governing bodies comprising the school district, or a formally-approved committee thereof, shall, as soon as immediately practicable, consult with the District Board of Education, or a formally-approved committee thereof, for purposes of determining the amount of general fund tax levy sufficient to ensure provision of a thorough and efficient education or to maintain the stability of a district's programs (*N.J.A.C. 6A:23-8.10(a)*); and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough have agreed jointly to hire a professional accounting firm to assist them in their review of the school board budget; and

WHEREAS, the three municipalities have also agreed to split the cost of services performed by the accounting firm; and

WHEREAS, the three municipalities have an obligation to certify an appropriate tax levy on or before May 19, 2006, and therefore time is of the essence; and

WHEREAS, the scope of work is reflected in the attached letter from the firm of Civale,

Silvestri, Alferi, Martin & Higgins, LLC, dated April 27, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Professional Services Agreement, in the form attached hereto, authorizing Civale, Silvestri, Alferi, Martin & Higgins, LLC, to review the defeated school board budget and supporting documentation provided by the school board, and provide advice to the Township Committee regarding said budget, the total costs for such services not to exceed \$7,500.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is conditioned upon a similar resolution being passed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pennington and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hopewell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is further conditioned upon the governing bodies of all three municipalities agreeing to equally share the costs of said professional services as follows: Hopewell Township, 84.3%; Pennington Borough, 9.2%; Hopewell Borough, 6.5%; and the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign an agreement authorizing such cost sharing.

PUBLIC SECTION

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Sandom noted the upcoming school budget hearings to be held on Tuesday, May 9 and Thursday, May 11. Counsel advised as to the process of said hearings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION. Read into the record.
Motion by Iorio, seconded by Sandahl to go to Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee to discuss real estate matters;
and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the Township Committee to conduct a meeting from which the public is excluded in order to discuss such matters; and

WHEREAS, the time when and circumstances under which discussion conducted in executive session may be disclosed to the public is when appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 5th day of May 2006, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township Committee shall forthwith conduct an executive session to discuss the above.

At 1:12 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 1:30 p.m., Motion by Iorio, seconded by Sandahl to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

ANNETTE C. BIELAWSKI
MUNICIPAL CLERK