

2009 - 87

**March 11, 2009
Township Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 5:38 P.M. with Mayor Elaine Niemann.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Burke, Committeeman Lubitz, C.F.O. Laudenbach, Auditor William Colantano, Clerk MacConnell and Deputy Clerk Keller . Following the salute to the Flag, Mayor Niemann read aloud the following:

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News on March 5, 2009 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to the Express Times and Star Ledger on March 2, 2009. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on March 2, 2009.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee or Board, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – Work Session

Auditor William Colantano was present and handed out a blank worksheet to the Committee members. He started out by explaining what he prepared for the Committee members. Mr. Colantano explained that the ratables are about \$70,000 for this year and that the Township should increase taxes for the amount allowed, which is ½ cent. The school is looking to raise taxes 1 to 1 and ½ cents. Mr. Colantano provided a tax breakdown of how money is actually being spent, which was reviewed. He explained that ½ cent increase would be another \$21.00 to the tax analysis figures for a \$400,000 house at about \$2.00 per month. There was a lengthy discussion on whether to raise taxes ½ cent or not. Mr. Colantano explained that the current surplus with this budget will be about \$500,000 if leaving the budget the same. There was a discussion on some of the small things that are going to affect people with their taxes this year, as far as, no homeowner rebate for many. The Committee members discussed the money saved by a person recently leaving the DPW, which is a difference of \$60,000. The Committee members discussed the number of DPW employees that is actually needed, and if they should replace the employee that resigned.

2009 - 88

The Committee members discussed various line items, figures and special appropriations already existing, which they suggested could be used for a proposed Smart Growth Study. Mr. Colantano explained that municipalities are allowed up to a 3 ½ percent increase in appropriations. The Committee members reviewed the budget requests that were submitted to the Clerk. Mayor Niemann will be contacting the Volunteer Fire Company in reference to their request of an increase.

The Township Committee meeting was moved downstairs in the Conference room at approximately 7:30 P.M. The 2009 Municipal Budget Work Session with Auditor William Colantano will resume at a Special Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

This meeting continued as the Committee members discussed the following:

DISCUSSION OF DOG LICENSE LATE FEE AMNESTY

Mayor Niemann explained a discussion she had with Dog License Official Traci Fleming. She noted that there are about 300 licenses not completed yet and the Township would lose approximately \$6,000 in revenue. She noted that Traci received 200 licenses, but they haven't included their late fee. There was a discussion on the request for waivers from several residents. Mr. Burke suggested that Traci send out letters requesting the late fees from the residents that owe the Township. There was a discussion on the ordinance to be amended, and that no exceptions except for totally disabled persons will be waived.

MILLTOWN ROAD

Mayor Niemann was contacted by Mr. Antimo Russano. She relayed her conversation with him to the Committee. He feels that the Township has not made all the repairs to Milltown Road, and to the bottom of his driveway. Mr. Burke relayed his conversation he had with the Township Engineer Thomas Decker. He noted that the paving of Milltown Road is not on the schedule this year, due to lack of funds. Mr. Russano feels that the Township is not doing what they promised and also did not repair his driveway. Mr. Burke will follow up with Public Works Supervisor Jack Search.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-39 – 2008 Reserve Budget Appropriation Transfers

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-39

2008 RESERVE BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

2009 – 89

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to make the following transfers within the 2008 Reserve Budget Appropriations:

From:	To:	Amount
118-0650-101	118-0050-299	\$350.00

It was moved by Mr. Lubitz, seconded by Mr. Burke and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:	AYE	- Burke, Lubitz, Niemann
	NAY	- None
	ABSTAIN	- None
	ABSENT	- None

PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FOOR

N/A

It was moved by Mr. Lubitz, seconded by Mr. Burke and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller, RMC
Deputy Clerk**