

2009 - 90

**March 23, 2009
Township Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 6:00 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 19, 2009 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to the Express Times and Star Ledger on March 16, 2009. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on March 16, 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

Mayor Niemann noted that the Township Committee will be continuing where they left off from the last meeting for the 2009 Municipal Budget work session. Mayor Niemann explained that she spoke to a representative at the Fire Company, and stated that he will try to get a copy of their 2007 audit report. The representatives from the Fire Company were hoping that the Township could support them additionally to what the Township normally contributes every year. Mayor Niemann noted that the Township would like to help them, but they would need to see supporting documentation first. There was some discussion whether the figures arrived upon at this meeting will be final. Mr. Colantano briefly explained that if the Committee can get through each line item in the budget this evening, then it could be introduced on April 7, 2009 at the next Township Committee meeting. He also noted that any line item can be modified at the budget hearing up to 10% either upward or downward without having to re-advertise the budget. He explained a new spread sheet he provided for the Committee members and some of the changes he made since the last meeting. The Committee reviewed several line items and made a few reductions.

Mr. Colantano guided the Committee members with figures that he worked on for the new Budget. He noted that when the Budget does get compiled, there are a few slight modifications that will need to be made due to requirements from the State. Mr. Colantano stated that these modifications will not affect the Budget all that much. The Committee members discussed tax appeals, deferred school taxes, rental income, public works dept., renovations to the municipal building, and electric bills. The Committee members made cuts where they thought it could be done to several line items in the budget. The Committee members wanted to know how tax appeals play into the budget. Mr. Colantano responded and stated that tax appeals will not be much of an impact on this budget. Mr. Colantano noted that there will be no municipal tax increase at all this year 2009. The Municipal Budget will be introduced at the Township Committee meeting on April 7, 2009.

Resolution No. 2009-40 2008 Reserve Budget Appropriations Transfers

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - 40

2008 RESERVE BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

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	\$500.00

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

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Burke, Lubitz, Niemann
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- None

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS – Discussion

Mayor Niemann stated that she has no updates at this time, and this will be tabled until the next regular Township Committee meeting in April.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jeff Scott – Consultant

Deputy Mayor Burke invited Mr. Jeff Scott to attend the meeting to discuss the possibility of working with the Township as a Consultant regarding the development of a long term plan for Kingwood's growth. Mr. Burke explained that there are a lot of grant deadlines coming up soon, and he feels that Mr. Scott has lot of contacts in State government that would be beneficial to the Township. He also explained that the Township is looking for long term, strategic assistance, beyond what the Planning Board reviews. Mr. Scott introduced himself and gave a broad description of how he can be of assistance to the Township. Mr. Scott explained that he would like to get a community group together with a variety of perspectives to establish the direction that our planning should take. Mr. Scott will prepare a proposal and have it for the Township Committee meeting in April. Mr. Phil Lubitz offered to serve as the point person for this initiative.

Kingwood Park, Union Road

Deputy Mayor Burke explained that the local schools have asked for permission to cut through the parking lot at the Kingwood Park due the road being closed. The County will be working on a small bridge near the park and close the road thru-way. The schools explained that the bus drivers would be very inconvenienced if they could not cut through the parking lot. The Committee members discussed the situation, and have decided that it would be acceptable for the buses to cut through the parking lot at the Kingwood Park to drop off and pickup students that live on Union Road. They noted that no other vehicles other than emergency will be allowed to cut through the parking lot.

It was moved by Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Lubitz and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully Submitted,

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