

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 23, 2011**

**Special Meeting Agenda 4:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon Democrat on March 17, 2011 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to the Express Times and Star Ledger on March 14, 2011. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on March 14, 2011.**

**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.**

**2011Municipal Budget – Work Session with Township Auditor**

**Discussion on Update of Horseshoe Bend Road Project**

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

**Adjournment**

2011 - 111

**March 23, 2011  
Township Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes**

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 4:00 P.M. with Mayor Lubitz.

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

**NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

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**2011 Municipal Budget – Work Session with Township Auditor**

Auditor William Colantano was present to review the 2011 Budget. He gave the Township Committee members a packet of information that explained what the Township has done so far regarding changes that the Township's C.F.O D. Laudenbach had given to him. Mr. Colantano started out by reviewing the budget calculations, which explained what is inside and outside the cap. He noted that these are based on the calculations allowed by the State. He explained that the Township now has \$91,000 available, which is currently under the cap. Mr. Colantano reviewed the new tax cap calculations, which is figured out with the base that is the amount of last years taxes. He stated that the State automatically gives the Township 2 percent. He explained that the Township only took advantage of two modifications to the cap, which were the increase of the pension for the LOSAP Contribution, and the amount do to new construction. He noted that the Township was allowed to increase their taxes by \$43,000, but still have \$29,000 that was not part of the increase in taxes, which will be banked and can be used next year if the Township decides to raise taxes. Mr. Colantano reviewed several pages that explained a breakdown of the taxes the local taxpayer pays.

He explained that the taxes for the average home assessment had only been raised \$282.00 in the last four years, which is a real positive for the residents in Kingwood. There has not been a large increase in municipal taxes, which has been increased only \$51.00 for municipal purposes over a three year period of time. Mr. Colantano noted that with the information the Township's C.F.O sent him, he modified revenues on several appropriations. He stated that the worksheet that he had prepared reflects the budget. He reviewed the Employee Group Health Insurance line item, and stated that there will be no help outside the cap appropriations to help with health insurance this year. C.F.O. D. Laudenbach explained that this is because the employee contributions will off set a large portion of the increase. Mr. Colantano commented that the Committee members have done a very good job on the budget this year compared to other towns. He stated that after looking at the numbers in the budget there is not that many changes from last year. The Committee members asked Mr. Colantano questions regarding revenues, surpluses, and several line items, such as, construction, DPW overtime, and 2% salary raise for certain individuals. Mr. Colantano responded. Auditor W. Colantano asked the Township Committee when they plan on introducing their budget. The Committee members noted that they would like to introduce the budget at their next Township Committee meeting on April 7, 2011 at 7:00PM. The Committee members thanked Mr. Colantano for attending the meeting.

#### Horseshoe Bend Road Project

Deputy Mayor Burke viewed information he had regarding the Deer Run property on Horseshoe Bend Road. He handed out an excel sheet of all the properties that have been preserved in Kingwood Township, and the Township's contribution not including the Horseshoe Bend project. He reviewed the total amounts collected to be spent towards the Deer Run property. He noted that funds have been received towards the property from the State Green Acre Fund, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New Jersey Resource Division, and the County Open Space municipal banked funds. Deputy Mayor Burke noted that the Township will be contributing a total of \$1,134,939.75, which is 50% of the matching funds for the Township's Grant. He stated that the Township has already designated \$900,000.00 from last year. He stated that this is not including the funds collected from the Gergar property or from the County Open Space funds. There was a discussion on bans, percentages and payments. Deputy Mayor Burke stated that there are several equestrian organizations, which he has recently spoken to that are willing to help out with the maintenance of the property, and the horse trails. He noted that the organizations are very excited about the future horse park to be on Horseshoe Bend Road since there are no longer many parks left in New Jersey. Deputy Mayor Burke discussed possible dates in May for the closing of the property. C.F.O. D. Laudenbach discussed several things that the Township Committee needs to prepare to do for this project.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mr. Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:10P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, RMC  
Deputy Clerk