

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE.

Present were: James Crilley, Chairman, Bruce Peterson, Vice Chairman, John Daddario, John O'Neill, Sr. and Scott Smith all being members of the Township Committee. Also present was: Roy Spoltore, Township Clerk/Administrator.

The meeting was called to order with a public announcement statement read by James Crilley, Chairman.

This Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent via e-mailed to The News of Cumberland County and The Press of Atlantic City on May 7, 2010. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk on aforementioned date. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. In compliance with State Fire Safety Statutes the Mayor instructed those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

Jim Crilley gave invocation followed by the flag salute led by John Daddario.

At this time James Crilley, Chairman opened the meeting for public comment. Ann Marie Johnson asked if the seven sending districts made specific budget reductions with the proposed \$225,000 cut from Cumberland Regional's Budget. Chairman Crilley stated that the proposed resolutions for discussion tonight identify suggested areas of line item budget reduction, but the school boards will ultimately make the specific line item reductions.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled reducing tax levy of the Upper Deerfield Township Board of Education 2010 – 2011 Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario to approve and adopt said resolution. Chairman Crilley asked for any Committee discussion and began the discussion by stating that if all of the parties involved had shared responsibility it would not have adversely affected the livelihoods of many individuals. He added the taxpayers are angry and they can't pay anymore. No group should be immune to the solutions as public support and confidence will need to be gained or everyone will be back here again next year. John O'Neill stated he attended the Cumberland Regional meeting along with the chairman and John Daddario has been working with the local school board. Mr. O'Neill added that not any one group has immunity to the problems everyone is faced with today. John Daddario recognized Greg Peterson and Joan McGill from the local School Board and thanked them for the non contentious atmosphere in dealing with the defeated school budget. He noted that the School Board's have their hands full and everyone needs to share the burden of the current economic climate. Bruce Peterson stated these are tough economic times, watching businesses close and others on the verge of closing. Mr. Peterson added that he doesn't like seeing contracts reopened but everyone must step up to help solve the problems and he would like to see the rhetoric reduced. He added that a freeze or

a reduction of an increase is not unreasonable during these economic times. Chairman Crilley added that there are no negative feelings concerning the School Board's budget development. He added the Township Committee can only make recommendations or suggestions, it is up to the School Board's to take the recommended dollar amount of reductions by the Governing Body and make modifications to their respective budgets as the School Board sees fit. In both resolutions salaries and benefits were recommended to be reduced. Bruce Peterson added that the proposed reduction for the local School Board is equivalent to the same level of spending as last year's school budget. There will be a tax increase, but that is a result of the loss of ratables in the Township due to tax appeals. With no other discussion a roll call vote was taken with vote 4 affirmative votes and Scott Smith abstaining.

RESOLUTION 10-100

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled reducing tax levy of the Cumberland Regional High School 2010 – 2011 Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Bruce Peterson, to approve and adopt said resolution. Chairman Crilley noted that the CRHS School Board will take the dollar amount of the proposed reduction and determine what line items of the budget will be reduced. Ann Marie Johnson asked if 20 positions were being cut. John O'Neill stated that there were previous cuts within the original budget and the School Board will identify areas to make further reductions based on the recommended tax levy reduction. Chairman Crilley added that the municipality's primary responsibility is to strike a tax levy rate for the schools. Bruce Peterson noted that the Cumberland Regional line item reduction numbers were derived based on a 14 to 1 ration of teachers to administrators, the school board will allocate where the reductions will occur. With no other discussion a roll call vote was taken with vote 4 affirmative votes and Scott Smith abstaining.

RESOLUTION 10-101

At this time James Crilley, Chairman opened the meeting for additional public comments. Greg Peterson thanked the Committee for the professional manner in which the discussions were conducted and resolved. Eileen Clark stated that school board members choose to be elected, but everyone is a volunteer and we need people to step up and get involved. Ms. Clark commended the Committee for their work.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John O'Neill to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy J. Spoltore
Township Clerk