

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 24, 2009

A meeting of Princeton Township Committee and Princeton Borough Council was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Princeton Borough Hall, 1 Monument Drive to discuss the Joint Municipal Budgets.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting.

Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On March 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, and the Town Topics, and filed with the Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

The Township Clerk called the roll for Princeton Township.

Present: Mayor Miller and Mesdames Lempert and Nemeth and Messrs. Goerner and Liverman.

Absent: None.

The Borough Clerk called the roll for Princeton Borough.

Present: Mayor Trotman, and Mrs. Trelstad, Messrs. Goldfarb, Koontz, Martindell and Wilkes.

Absent: Mrs. Karcher.

**Consent Agenda – Operating Budgets**

- Animal Control
- Corner House
- Environmental Commission
- Fire Department
- Fire Facilities
- First Aid
- Health
- Human Services
- Library
- Planning Board
- Recreation
- Sewer Operating
- Solid Waste

Mr. Liverman offered a motion on behalf of the Township to approve the consent agenda items as presented with a 5% reduction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goerner and carried unanimously.

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented with a 5% reduction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koontz and carried unanimously by those present.

**Animal Control**

Mark Johnson, Small Animal Control Officer asked that the 5% not be removed from the Animal Control budget. David Henry, Health Officer said that in 2008 approximately an additional \$1000. was added to Animal Control from the Health Department budget. Mr. Bruschi said that the problem was not as clean as that and that it was an issue of managing funds. He asked that the administration and management of the budget be put in their control.

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion approving the Animal Control budget for 2009. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Goerner offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously.

### **Corner House**

Gary DeBlasio, Corner House Director said that he was comfortable with the budget as submitted. The budget is proposed to be \$298,573. which is up \$2,479 from last year's budget. The increase is completely associated with the salary and wage and fringe benefits portion of the budget. Mr. Martindell congratulated Corner House for committing to raise private funds.

Mr. Martindell offered a motion approving the Corner House budget for 2009. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Liverman offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

### **Environmental Commission**

Ms. Trelstad offered a motion approving the Environmental Commission budget for 2009. Mr. Golfarb seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Goerner offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

### **Fire Department and Fire Facilities**

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion approving the Fire Department and Fire Facilities budget for 2009. Mr. Koontz seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Ms. Nemeth offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman carried unanimously.

### **First Aid**

The First Aid budget is proposed to be \$161,161 which is down \$8,482 from the \$169,643, which was budgeted last year.

Peter Simon, First Aid and Rescue Squad said that he was against the decrease. The Squad is not a municipal agency and the monies are a joint contribution. Mr. Bruschi said that he maintains the recommendation regarding the contribution to the rescue squad.

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion approving the Rescue Squad budget for 2009. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Goerner said that he did not realize that the recommendation was a cut in the contribution to the Rescue Squad. He said that this was inappropriate and that cuts should be confined to operating budgets, not salaries as in this case. Mr. Bruschi suggested that the administrators meet with the rescue squad and look at the numbers. Mr. Pascale said that he would defer to Mr. Bruschi but with concerns.

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion accepting the recommendation of the administrators. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried by five affirmative votes in the Borough. Mr. Martindell voted in the negative.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion on behalf of Princeton Township not to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goerner and carried unanimously.

### **Health Department**

Mr. Bruschi reported that the proposed Health Department budget is \$415,494., which is \$27,090. from last year. The proposed budget not only includes the 5% decrease in the other expenses portion of the budget, but the salary portion of the budget also contains a reduction in part-time employee hours.

Bruce Topolosky, Chairman of the Health Commission said that the Health Commission was the first line of defense and asked that the governing body hold the line on the budget. He said that the success of the Health Department is measured in the absence of disease and the consequences of decreasing public health are dire.

Mr. Bruschi said that the Health Department is being budgeted more than they expended last year and that he is comfortable with the recommendation.

David Henry, Director of the Health Department said that he has appreciated Mr. Bruschi's help in the past but noted that the State has become more restrictive. He said that the Health Department would have to reduce operating hours. Mr. Martindell said that they were not there principally to please the state and that he had no problem with reducing the hours depending on the facts. Mr. Bruschi asked that the Health Department run a little leaner.

Mr. Goldfarb offered a motion approving the Health Department budget for 2009 as proposed. Mr.

Martindell seconded the motion as presented. The motion was carried by five affirmative votes in the Borough. Mr. Koontz voted in the negative.

Mr. Goerner offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert carried by four affirmative votes. Ms. Nemeth voted in the negative.

### **Library**

Leslie Burger, Director of the Princeton Public Library said that she appreciated the fact that the library was not asked to take a harder budgetary hit. She also thanked those who continually supported the library in this tough economy.

Ms. Trelstad offered a motion approving the Library budget for 2009. Mr. Martindell seconded the motion as presented, which was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Goerner offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously by the Township.

### **Planning**

Mr. Wilkes offered a motion approving the Planning budget for 2009. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented, which was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Mr. Liverman offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously by the Township.

### **Recreation**

Jack Roberts, Recreation Director, said that he could guarantee increased volume at the pool this year due to the economy as well as expanded day care and recreation camp.

Mr. Koontz offered a motion approving the Recreation budget for 2009. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion as presented, which was carried unanimously by the Borough.

Ms. Nemeth offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert carried unanimously by the Township.

### **Sewer Operating Committee**

On behalf of the Township, Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2009. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

Ms. Trelstad offered a similar motion on behalf of the Borough. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldfarb and carried unanimously by those present.

**Solid Waste**

Mr. Goerner offered a motion on behalf of the Township to approve budget for solid waste for 2009. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously.

Ms. Trelstad offered a similar motion on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Koontz seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by those present.

**Human Services**

Mr. Liverman said that Human Services is not worthy and also worthy of tax payer dollars. He said that they offer remarkable services and that he would be in favor of a review. Mr. Liverman said that it really bothered him to have to defend this agency. Mr. Goerner said that he agreed with Mr. Liverman and thanked Borough Council for the opportunity to review. Mayor Miller said that Princeton prides itself on being progressive and when times are tough, they are tougher on those with no protection.

Mr. Goldfarb said that there are any number of private agencies who provide the same services as Human Services and they do them better. He said he could not support them with his vote.

Mr. Koontz thanked everyone for working discussions and that he recognized that they are a joint agency and that he shared Mr. Goldfarb's concerns.

Mr. Martindell said that he too shared Mr. Goldfarb's concerns but for different reasons. He said that Human Services would not be abolished, just transferred.

Mayor Trotman said that it is most unfortunate when cuts are made and those most vulnerable are caught in the trap. She said that she applauded the study as welcomed and necessary but was concerned that we won't get out of it what is really needed.

Mr. Liverman asked that the transfer of Crosstown 62 be as seamless as possible.

Mr. Koontz offered a motion on behalf of Princeton Borough approving the Human Services budget as presented. Mr. Wilkes seconded the motion which was carried by four affirmative votes. Mr. Goldfarb and Mr. Martindell voted in the negative.

Mr. Goerner offered a similar motion on behalf of Princeton Township. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman carried unanimously

**Suzanne Patterson Center**

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the 2009 operating budget for the Suzanne Patterson Center. Mr. Goerner seconded the motion for the Township, which was carried unanimously.

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Mrs. Trelstad offered a similar motion on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Goldfarb seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by those present.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott  
Township Clerk