

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
March 31, 2008

A special meeting of Township Committee, Princeton Borough Council and the Princeton Regional School Board was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Princeton Township Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street. The purpose of the meeting was for the Princeton Regional School Board to present their proposed school budget to both governing bodies.

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 6, 2008 at 11:40 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 then called the roll.

Present for
Princeton Township Committee: Mayor Marchand and Mrs. Bergman and Mr. Liverman .

Absent: Mr Goerner and Mr. Miller.

Also Present: Mr. Pascale.

Present for
Princeton Borough Council: Mayor Trotman, Medames Karcher and Trelstad,
Messers. Goldfarb and Koontz.

Absent: Mrs. Benchley and Mr. Martindell.

Also Present: Mr. Bruschi.

Present for the
Princeton Regional School Board: Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Kennedy, Ms. Cahill, Messers Bliss
and Hegedus.

Mrs. Wilson, Superintendent of Schools, began her presentation by saying that the School Board Election will be held on April 15, 2008, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She said that there will be candidate's night on April 8, 2008.

Mrs. Wilson said that the goals for the 2008-2009 budget include maintenance of educational programs for all students, to offset increases in state mandated expenses, to propose a budget under the 4% state cap on the local tax levy, to reduce the extremely high class sizes in some core academic courses at the high school and to reduce costs of the Pre-K program while meeting the needs of children from economically challenged families.

Mrs. Wilson said that the proposed tax increase of 3.32%, is less than the state allowed maximum of 4% and the tax levy proposed for 2008-2009 is \$56,965,650. She said that the tax impact in Princeton Township is a 1.03 cent decrease with an average tax decrease of -\$45.00 per year. The tax impact in Princeton Borough would be a 9.5 cent increase with an average tax increase of \$332. per year. She explained that the difference between the two municipalities for the percentage share of the local tax levy is an imposed percentage share which is calculated in the Mercer County Board of Taxation Office, using home sales data collected by the Tax Board.

Mrs. Wilson said that the increase in the local tax levy was contained by decreased expenditures in non-instructional budget areas. She said that all school and department budgets will remain unchanged from last year, the board renegotiated contracts and changed or postponed projects, there were decreases in utility bills and a decrease in out of district tuitions.

Mrs. Wilson pointed out some recent achievements of the school district including Princeton High School being ranked "94" among top 100 high schools in the Nation by US News & World Report.

Mayor Marchand thanked Mrs. Wilson and the school board for their presentation. Mayor Trotman asked Mrs. Wilson to plan on doing this every year and thanked her for her presentation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Township Clerk