

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX  
HELD AT THE SUSSEX MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2 MAIN STREET, SUSSEX, NJ  
DECEMBER 21, 2010**

Mayor Parrott called the meeting to order and requested the clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mr. Fransen, Mr. LaBar, Mrs. Little, Mr. Rose, Mayor Parrott.

Absent: Mr. Dykstra, Mr. Meyer

Mayor Parrott led the assembly in the flag salute and requested a moment of silence.

Mayor Parrott stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk."

**PRESENTATIONS:**

At this time Bob Schultz, DPW Supervisor gave the DPW Report for the meeting of December 21, 2010. A copy of his report is on file in the Clerk's office.

Mayor Parrott stated that Mr. Rome will not be giving the financial report tonight. He did not receive the November report from the Tax Collector so there was nothing new to update the Council about.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Parrott requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

Mr. Fransen made a motion to accept the consent agenda of December 21, 2010. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

**CORRESPONDENCE** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Email dated December 14, 2010 from Debra Tedesco for Elbert Basolis regarding a thank you letter for the water tank project.
2. Letter dated December 9, 2010 from Marianne Smith to Catherine Gleason regarding Construction Office Services Contract.
3. Letter dated December 7, 2010 from John Hatzelis of SCMUA to Mayor Parrott regarding Estimated Annual Charge – FY-2011.
4. Memo from the DCA regarding Best Practices.

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Department for the month of November 2010.

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

**RESOLUTIONS:** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of December 21, 2010

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #1**

Mr. LaBar made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Fransen. All were in favor.

Mr. Tony Ferraro, 22 Clove Avenue addressed the Council regarding his water bill. He stated that he power washed his house and his water bill was very high. He asked the Council for

some relief from the sewer portion of the bill since none of that water went into the sanitary sewer.

Mayor Parrott explained that the request would have had to been made before he power washed his house. The Council could have decided to allow Mr. Ferraro to have a meter put on when he power washed the house to calculate the amount of extra water he used. We already have that system in place for people who want to fill their swimming pools.

Mr. Ferraro asked the Council why the water bills so high and Mayor Parrott explained the I & I problem that the Borough has and told him that we plan on fixing a lot of the problems in the spring when we do the manhole project.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. LaBar made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Little All were in favor.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mrs. Little made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss litigation and contracts. Motion seconded by Mr. Fransen.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

After meeting in closed session, the Governing Body returned to their seats at 8:30 p.m. and Mrs. Little made a motion to reconvene into open public session. Seconded by Mr. LaBar. All were in favor.

At this time Mayor Parrott welcomed representatives from High Point Regional High School who requested to be on the agenda this evening to discuss their budget.

Mr. Joe Hoffman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, introduced the other representatives from the school. He stated that this is the Committee's fifth meeting in the last two weeks on the budget that they will implement on July 1, 2011. The reason that they have been working so hard on it is because we all know the issues in funding from the government and they need the Council's input so they get it as right as possible this year.

Mr. Hoffman stated that High Point did make adequate yearly progress on the "No Child Left Behind" program for the year 2010. Very few schools have met or achieved that goal so they are very happy with the news. The Governing Bodies of the sending districts had directed the school to cut 33 staff personnel and they were cut and not rehired except for one position. They had to cut a number of sports and extra curricular programs even though the towns asked them not to. With that said for the fall sports program about thirty of the local athletes were able to achieve awards such as "All County" and "All State". They are pleased with that as well. The football team is one of the best that they have had in years.

Mr. Hoffman stated, that on the big economic pieces, the school has actually cut their per student cost to \$2,000. That is based upon some of the towns' direction. The figures are on the website. They also cut their expenses by 1.5 million dollars. They have taken to heart some of the things that the towns' have suggested that the tax payers need to have done.

Mr. Hoffman stated that there are three big pieces that he wanted to make the Council fully aware of. The voters said no to a referendum regarding the lights on the football field but as the Council probably has seen, there are lights on the football field. The Board did not put any Board or taxpayer monies to put the lights on the field. There were a number of people and groups in our community that said they wanted the lights so they were able to raise \$105,000.00. The Board analyzed the issue and came to the conclusion that the cost to turn the lights on would be minimal and that they couldn't turn down the offer for the lights to be donated. It will only cost about \$35 to \$50 per event but if they have 100 people and they charge them \$2.00 each to see a night game then it pays for itself.

Mr. Hoffman stated that they are opening a school within a school – an alternative school. What that means is that they took an area of the school that was used for industrial arts, which is no longer part of the curriculum and they are using it for classroom space with the help of some grant money. They currently have five students in there and they hired one person to teach the class. They have to run it as a separate school. These are students that typically the school would have to send out to other schools with tuition on the order of \$60,000 per student and

transportation costs of about \$30,000 per student. Now, with one teacher, they have five students back in the building. Dr. Hannum is focused on the educational goals and meeting the needs of the students in the community. The Board recognizes that but they are really only going to continue it if it is economically viable. Right now it is economically viable. It is actually a profit center. The bussing has become a profit center over the years. It is basically to bring special needs students back into the school. The one salary that is being paid is being paid out of two grants which are stretched over two years. When the grant money runs out then they will have to take another hard look at the program.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the third big piece of the economic part is that the Board is going to go ahead with replacing the thirty five year old single pane windows in the building and replace them with high efficiency thermal pane windows. Right now they have \$1,000.00 a day energy costs. It is going to cost about \$800,000 to do the windows and doors. They got a grant from the State for approximately 38% of the cost. The rest of the money is going to come out of the school's capital improvement fund. They didn't have the money to do it because they didn't put money into the year before or last year but what did happen was that out of the blue the State gave them a two year retroactive tuition reimbursement for students that they take from other districts at double the normal rate. That money can not be used for operating costs or to rehire teachers. The only thing that they could really do with it was to put in the capital improvement fund. It would have sat there but for the fact that they did get a 38% grant from the State. It is a much needed upgrade that could not have been done if not for the grant and the tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Hoffman stated that they have three sets of employees that they negotiate with. The first set is the supervisors and they are in negotiations with them now. The best guess is that there will be no increase and there will be some give backs. The second group is the administration. They are not currently in negotiations with them. They settled a contract with them before the budget was defeated. That contract was settled at 3.5% but as part of it they were required to pay a 1.5% contribution of total salary towards medical, dental and prescription drug coverage. So they really got a 2% increase. They had seven administrators and they did away with one of them. They got 2% but picked up a 20% work load. The current teacher contract was settled at 3.7% and they have one year to go on that contract. That was one of the lowest increases in the County. The hand writing is on the wall that the Governor is serious about the 2% cap although right now it doesn't apply to teachers. The next series of negotiations is going to be very, very different then what has gone on before in years past.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the maximum increase is 2% of the total tax dollars billed to the five sending districts. It works out to be \$311,000.00. That will be the cap starting next July 1<sup>st</sup>. Vo Tech is now going to be charging tuition to send students there. The districts send about 100 students to Vo Tech so that in itself will eat up about \$200,000 of the \$311,000 expendable cap. Then the built in contractual obligations eat up \$483,000 and anticipated medical and dental eat up about \$498,000. Anticipated utilities and transportation costs eat up another \$80,000. That already adds up to one million dollars.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the first thing that they have taken a hard look at is changing from 9 periods a day to 8 periods a day and extending the class time by ten minutes. It is the same total day but instead of needing nine teachers standing they would only need eight. There are contractual issues that they are looking at. They will have to lay off about ten people then but they want to keep the same educational quality. The second thing is somewhat similar and it is called block scheduling. They are also looking at cutting out some of the courses that they offer although it is something that they don't like to do. They are thinking of rearranging the administration as well. They recognize that it is a tough year for everyone but they are looking for real solutions. They would like to come back before the Council one or two more times before the budget gets voted on.

Mayor Parrott thanked them for coming and stated that it is good for the Council to hear what the school's goals and problems are. It will be interesting to see how the school moves forward to address them. The Council can appreciate doing a budget because the town goes through the same thing every year. Mayor Parrott stated that he was disappointed himself when he heard about the 3.5% raise with the administrators. He asked what the time frame was and wondered if it was settled before the budget was defeated and the towns expressed their displeasure with such large increases. He stated that the towns sent the message very clearly to the Board that they wanted the increase capped at 2 or 2.5%. Then when he heard that the first contract that got negotiated was 3.5% he was very upset.

Mayor Parrott asked if there was an opportunity to put the breaks on the administrator's contract and get it down more into line with what the sending districts wanted to give. He stated that he

believes that starting out with a 3.5% increase for them puts the Board in a difficult position when they have to negotiate with the other two groups.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he was not on the negotiating team but his understanding is that it was settled before the budget was defeated. There are two other pieces to it however. They did cut out a position which made the other administrators have to pick up the work load. They also made them contribute that 1.5% of gross salary. This was even before the Governor came in and made them do that. They didn't have the tool kit back then when they were negotiating. He understands how the Mayor feels and stated that they will take it to heart with the other negotiations. They are now taking a brutally tough line.

Mr. LaBar commented that he has heard from a lot of different people that they believe, as does he, that the school is top heavy in administration. With a limited amount of students it seems that the percentage of administration to students is very high compared to other schools. Mr. LaBar stated that Dr. Hannum will support it because he is the superintendent.

Mr. Hannum stated that when High Point opened with about eight or nine hundred students 45 years ago there were more administrators then there are today. Things are much more complicated today then they were forty years ago and yet they have fewer administrators now then they did then. As Mr. Hoffman has pointed out they did cut out one administrative position last year. They cut a supervisor's position two or three years ago. He stated that they have been listening to what the taxpayers have been saying regarding administration and they have looked at it very carefully.

Mr. LaBar stated that the perception is still that there are too many administrators. It seems that the public is led to believe that it is necessary to have all of these different administrators because of State mandates. Isn't there anyone who can multi-task? Maybe someone can do more than one job.

Dr. Hannum stated that they are doing that now.

Mr. LaBar stated that he doesn't hear that from people who are in the school system.

Mayor Parrott stated that he hopes that the Board takes that into consideration. The direction that came from Sussex Borough is that they did not want to see the children harmed in any way with reductions and it was said that they did cut out some sports programs. That went against what the town's recommendation was that we wanted to see done. He stated that he hopes that when they do their next negotiations and next budget that maybe some of those can be brought back. It is wonderful that the football team did well but not everyone plays football. They need to look closely at the class sizes and cutting out one of the class periods.

Mayor Parrott asked if the issue with the Charter School is going to be an issue and Linda Alvarez stated that it only affects the elementary schools.

Dr. Hannum stated that Vo Tech is now operating similar to the Charter School because now they will be charging \$2300 per student. In the past they have not charged the sending districts tuition. That is a major issue that they just learned about last Friday. There was no communication with the county superintendents regarding the tuition. The Sussex Tech Board, who is appointed by the Freeholders, made the decision without any input. That money was not anticipated in the budget.

Mr. Hannum stated that it might benefit the five sending districts to look at regionalization. He doesn't know if we really need five Boards of Education, five Board secretaries and five administrations to run the few schools that we have in the district. Everyone would benefit by bulk purchase. The towns governing bodies should look at it. It could be centralized into one office.

Mayor Parrott stated that he hopes this isn't a way that the County has chosen to keep their tax rate down by passing it on to the municipalities.

Mr. Hannum stated that Vo Tech was going to have a \$500,000 short fall from the County so that is why they are passing on the cost. They have just moved the source of their revenue and haven't cut any programs or any of their budget which doesn't seem to be right in this climate. There are only three or four counties in the State that haven't charged tuition. Sussex County tried to do it several years ago and there was public outcry from people who went to the Board meetings and spoke to the Freeholders. This time it was done almost in the dark of night. His understanding is that it is cast in stone.

Mrs. Little thanked the Board for coming to the meeting to inform the public about the lights on the football field. She stated that she has had several residents ask her about them. She is glad to hear that it did not come out of the budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Fransen stated that he went to the Sussex Wantage School Board meeting and asked Dr. Izbicki about the Charter School, which is probably what prompted Mrs. Krynicky to come to the Council meeting the following week. He stated that he asked Dr. Izbicki if he found out why 60 children had chosen to go to the Charter School from the district. They were supposed to have done a survey but that we hadn't heard from him in over eight months. He stated that Dr. Izbicki told him that they only got three responses from the survey. He told Dr. Izbicki that if he had been given a project to do and it took eight months then he would be held accountable. They are going to do an actual survey now as to why so many children are leaving the district.

Mayor Parrott stated that we are going to send the minutes of the last meeting to Dr. Izbicki at his request.

Mrs. Little reported that on December 9, 2010 she attended the 208 Water Resources meeting. Nathaniel reported on the Clove Brook clean up of the trees in the stream and he thanked Bob Schultz and the DPW for all of the work that they did. He stated that there is another tree that has fallen down in the brook. She also reported that on December 14, 2010 she attended the special Borough meeting and also the Sussex County Solid Waste meeting. They reported an increase in their income from the trucks at the SCMUA facility since the flow control went into effect. They are gaining some there but losing in the recycling area. She stated that she has the box for the rechargeable batteries. The Sussex County Board of Health is starting to contact businesses regarding their recycling problems. They have been checking on businesses in the Borough and have found that some of them are not meeting their recycling requirements.

Mrs. Little also stated that there is a Board of Health meeting scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> and that she will call the members on Monday to remind them. They need to finalize their plans for the rabies clinic.

Mr. Rose asked if they are going to do dog and cat registration at the same time and Mrs. Little stated that they are not.

Mrs. Gleason stated that she would prefer not to do it then since it is all done on the computer by the staff and that there is no internet connection down at the Borough garage.

Mr. Ursin reported that he is waiting on the Clove Hill litigation settlement money. He thinks we will see it by the end of the year. He stated that the High Ridge suit continues. We filed some procedural motions to dismiss based upon the time periods that had passed before the second complaint was filed. They are returnable in January so we may make some progress there.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. LaBar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on December 7, 2010. Seconded by Mrs. Little.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: Fransen

Mr. LaBar made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on December 14, 2010. Seconded by Mr. Rose.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: Fransen

#### **Adoption Ordinance #2010-18 – Roads and Sidewalks**

This ordinance was tabled until further review by the Borough Engineer Harold Pellow.

Adoption Ordinance #2010-24 – Sale of Municipally Owned Property

Mr. LaBar made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOW AS BLOCK 301.21 LOT 371 AND BLOCK 603 LOT 1”. Seconded by Mr. Fransen.

Before final roll call Mayor Parrott opened the meeting to the public for any questions or concerns that they may have regarding Ordinance #2010-24.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #2010-24, Mayor Parrott closed the meeting to the public and returned to the regular order of business.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Adoption Ordinance #2010-25 – Sale of Municipally Owned Property

Mrs. Little made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOW AS BLOCK 503 LOT 1”. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

Before final roll call Mayor Parrott opened the meeting to the public for any questions or concerns that they may have regarding Ordinance #2010-25.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #2010-25, Mayor Parrott closed the meeting to the public and returned to the regular order of business.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little,

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: Rose

Adoption Ordinance #2010-28 – Sussex/Wantage/Stillwater Interlocal Court

Mayor Parrott explained that this ordinance has to be tabled because Stillwater did not introduce a similar ordinance as of yet. They plan on discussing it in the new year.

Resolution #2010-80R – Resolution Authorizing Transfers Between Budget Appropriations

Mrs. Little made a motion to approve resolution regarding transfers between budget appropriations. Seconded by Mr. Rose.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Resolution #2010-81R – Forgive Taxes on Block 102 Lot 1

Mr. LaBar made a motion to approve a resolution to forgive the taxes on Block 102 Lot 1. Seconded by Mr. Rose.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Sussex Fire Department 2011 Off Premise 50/50 Raffle

Mr. LaBar made a motion to approve Raffle License #2010-02 for Off Premise 50/50's for the Sussex Fire Department and waive the applicable Borough fees. Seconded by Mrs. Little.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None  
United Water 2011 Contract – Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve a contract with United Water to operate the Water Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$207,821.92, for FY2011. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

#### Interlocal Court Agreement – Wantage Township

Mr. LaBar made a motion to enter into an Interlocal agreement with Wantage Township for the year 2011 in the amount of \$44,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Rose.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #2**

Mrs. Little made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Rose. All were in favor.

TerryAnn Zander, Advertiser News, asked the Council if High Point came on their own to the meeting and Mrs. Gleason responded that they asked to be put on the agenda. She also asked about the Court agreement and whether or not it will be prorated if Stillwater joins.

Mr. Ursin responded that it will be prorated over time. If it is only three months then the Borough will only pay for three months. It is not based upon Court usage.

Ms. Zander asked why we forgave the taxes on the Loomis Avenue property and Mr. Rose responded that the State now owns the property. She also asked Mr. Fransen if his comments to Dr. Izbicki were at a recent meeting. Mr. Fransen responded that it was at the November meeting.

Ms. Zander asked if we got all of our transitional aid.

Mrs. Gleason responded that we received \$100,000 and that we also received all of our other State aid because we did comply with the check list sent to us by the State. Some of the other municipalities in the County did not receive all of the aid.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. LaBar made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Rose. All were in favor.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mr. LaBar stated that there was an editorial in the paper that said that the Friendly's shopping center was in Sussex when in fact it is in Wantage. Someone was complaining that there was no handicapped ramp on the side walk in front of Friendly's and it made it seem like the Borough was at fault.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mrs. Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rose. All were in favor.

---

Christian Parrott, Mayor

---

Catherine Gleason, RMC