

## OPEN SESSION

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated that adequate notice and posting of the meeting had taken place in accordance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was followed by the roll call.

### ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Harinxma</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Rosenberg</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator, and George Lang, Chief Financial Officer.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda as presented was moved by Councilmember Sikorski, seconded by Council President Schneider and approved by all.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

**Eugene Sarafin**, 600-628 South Main Street, wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Barbara Jones**, 215 Greeley Street, thanked Mayor Patten for responding to her recent correspondence. She stated that the proposed increase in water-sewer rates would be, in effect, adding a fifth payment each year for her. The Borough's costs are "out of hand," she said, and questioned the need to purchase a new fire truck, garbage truck and front-end loader. She said that she likes living in Hightstown, but it is getting too expensive.

**Dan Buriak**, 194 Stockton Street, stated that the Historic Preservation Commission was "not formed to be a social club" and accomplished nothing during 2006. He stated that the Borough has missed opportunities to receive grant funding for historic preservation projects, such as the restoration of the Cedar Hill Cemetery. In addition, he said, Hightstown has "achieved the distinction of taking longer than the federal government to designate the Stockton Street Historic District." Lastly, Mr. Buriak stated that the Historic Preservation Commission is regulated by the Municipal Land Use Law, and, for the class of members designated as local citizens, appointees may not serve in other official capacities. He said that Kathy Patten's appointment to the Housing Authority is in conflict with that law, and that mistake "should not be

perpetuated in 2007." He stated that he has submitted his own application to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission and presented his written qualifications to the Mayor and Council.

**Walt Connor**, 9 Spruce Court, thanked the Mayor and Council for looking at the proposed water-sewer rates. He said that he agrees with Ms. Jones' comments and he appreciates Council's response to his concerns, and he welcomed the newly re-elected members of the governing body.

No one else came forward and the floor was closed.

## ORDINANCES

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING: ORDINANCE 2006-29,**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 19-2.2, "WATER CHARGES," AND SECTION 19-2.3, "SEWER CHARGES," OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN*

Ms. Gallagher reviewed the provisions of Ordinance 2006-29 and stressed the importance of its adoption. Mayor Patten opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2006-29.

**Eugene Sarafin**, 600-628 South Main Street, objected once again to what he termed the Borough's "flush tax" and claimed that the Borough is "using water/sewer to run the Borough." Regarding the rate increase, Mr. Sarafin stated that "it's expedient to do what you did" and the method chosen is "the fair way to do it." He agreed with Ms. Jones that it is getting too expensive to live in Hightstown, and said that he hopes that Council "will do something about it this coming year."

**Barbara Jones**, 215 Greeley Street, stated that she finds it "odd" to increase the base rates rather than usage rates. Councilman Quattrone explained that to increase the usage rates penalizes large families. Ms. Jones stated that to increase base rates instead discourages conservation, and is "illogical."

**Mr. Sarafin** spoke again to state that our usage rate is high, and not to charge a base rate that covers fixed costs is unfair. "If no one turned the tap on, we'd be broke if we ran on the usage rate," he said.

**Walt Connor**, 9 Spruce Court, stated that "raising the base rate is the right way to do it. It's the same pain for all. ... It hurts, but we're all in it together."

No one else came forward and the floor was closed.

**Ordinance 2006-29** was moved for adoption by Councilmember Quattrone and seconded by Council President Schneider. Discussion ensued.

Council President Sikorski stated that he will have no problem in voting for this, "having gone through this elaborate process," but would like to see the Borough provide for seniors who qualify for PAAD to receive a reduced rate. It's a small number of people, he said.

Councilman Thompson stated that he intends to vote against this increase, because "we are continuing to pass along significant increases to the people of Hightstown, and have not demonstrated the will nor the ability to look systemically at Hightstown."

Councilmember Harinxma stated that she was "inclined to agree with Patrick," and that, although she understands the need to increase the rate as it stands now, the Borough needs to do something in the future to change what has been happening year to year. She said that she would feel more comfortable voting for this if she was assured of that.

Councilman Quattrone stated that "none of us like to raise rates at all" but it's necessary to do that at this time. To move the anticipated deficit into the current budget (and into the cap) would be "ridiculous," he said, and "one way or another we have to make up for the shortfall." "I'm not saying we shouldn't explore further," he added. "During the budget process, we will have to look at the water-sewer budget to see what can be done."

Councilman Thompson stated that "the bottom line is that we're serious about not passing along increased costs to people." Councilman Quattrone stated that "the way to go is to pass this Ordinance, do some research and see if we can lower it [in the future]."

Council President Sikorski asked Mr. Lang what would be the consequences of *not* adopting this Ordinance. "If we don't pass it right now," Mr. Lang replied, "the water-sewer budget will not be balanced when we introduce it. We need to show that we can bring in revenues to balance the budget. With the reduction in revenues from grease acceptance and the lower surplus, we do not have sufficient revenues we can document to balance the budget. We can only anticipate next year what we collected this year. ... The deficit would have to be raised by the current fund inside the cap." There is no room to do that, he said, and it would add to the tax burden.

Councilmember Schneider stated that he was in favor of the original increase scenario proposed, which would have raised both base and usage rates, but there is a "general fairness" to the argument for increasing only base rates. "I believe we need to do this," he said, "... because the water department is supposed to be self-sustaining, by statute." He noted that there is no longer utility surplus used in the current budget, and Ms. Gallagher confirmed that this has not been possible since Minute Maid left the Borough. All utility surplus, she said, has been utilized since that time within the utility budget. "It is no longer the 'profit center' or 'flush tax' that it used to be referred to," Mr. Schneider said, "but that is how it *had* been. We're not in surplus now, but in deficit."

Councilmember Schneider went on to say, "This is one area that has the best chance to be helped by regionalization....If we could sell water to a neighbor, fantastic. It would put us back in a position to operate our own water-sewer department. But without Minute Maid, we're not big enough to exist on our own." We do need to look into that, he said, and provide water in the meantime. He added that he feels that Council would be committed to reducing the rates in the future, if we are able to do that. "I'll vote yes," he said. "It's the right thing to do."

Mayor Patten noted that, if the Mill and the Minute Maid sites are redeveloped, the added usage will help.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Schneider and Sikorski voted yes. Councilmembers Harinxma and Thompson voted no. Councilmember Rosenberger was absent.

**Ordinance adopted, 3-2.**

**ORDINANCE 2006-29**      **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 19-2.2, "WATER CHARGES," AND SECTION 19-2.3, "SEWER CHARGES," OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN***

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 19-2.2, "Water Charges," of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* is hereby amended as follows (additions underlined; deletions in ~~strikeout text~~):

- a. Quarterly base charge for water connections (per connection unit)

~~For July 1, 2004 billing and October 1, 2004 billing~~

~~(covering usage from 3/16/04 — 9/15/04)~~

~~\$43.00 per unit~~

~~For subsequent billings~~

~~\$32.00~~ \$37.50 per unit

- b. Quarterly base charge for auxiliary residential water-only connection  
(per connection unit), installed as per subsection 19-2.5c

~~\$15.00~~ \$25.00 per unit

- c. Water usage charge per each 100 cubic feet of metered water usage  
(all account types except auxiliary residential water-only connections)

\$1.85

- d. Water usage charge per each 100 cubic feet of metered water usage for  
auxiliary residential water-only connections

\$2.85 per unit

- ~~e.~~ Tanked water \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons

- ~~e~~f. Quarterly base charge for private fire service lines:

Size of fire service line:

2"	\$10.00
4"	\$50.00
6"	\$155.00
8"	\$335.00
10"	\$600.00

~~f~~g. The Borough shall assess a charge of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars for all water meter readings not required for the calculation of quarterly water bills.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of Section 19-2.3, "Sewer Charges," of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* are hereby amended as follows (additions underlined; deletions in ~~strikeout text~~):

- a. Quarterly base charge for sewage connections (per connection unit) whether or not  
any water is used during the quarter

~~\$34.00~~ \$60.00 per unit

Section 3. Paragraph (c)(3) of Section 19-2.3, "Sewer Charges," of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, regarding rates to be charged for the processing of grey water delivered via tank truck by commercial entities, is hereby amended as follows:

- (3) The contents of each tanker will be tested so as to determine the pH level of the material.

For material with a measured pH found to be ~~below~~ between 5.0 and 5.5,  
an additional surcharge will be assessed

~~\$ 2.00~~ \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons

For material with a measured pH found to be below 5.0,  
an additional surcharge will be assessed

\$10.00 per 1,000 gallons

Section 4. Paragraph (d)(3) of Section 19-2.3, "Sewer Charges," of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, regarding rates to be charged for the processing of septic tank waste delivered via tank truck by commercial entities, is hereby amended as follows:

- (3) The contents of each tanker will be tested so as to determine the pH level of the material.

For material with a measured pH found to be ~~below~~ between 5.0 and 5.5,  
an additional surcharge will be assessed

~~\$ 2.00~~ \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided by law.

## RESOLUTIONS

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, **Resolution 2006-285** was moved by Councilmember Sikorski and seconded by Councilmember Quattrone.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolution adopted, 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION 2006-285      A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
CONTRACT WITH MONMOUTH OCEAN HOSPITAL SERVICE CORPORATION ("MONOC") FOR  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, on December 29, 2005, the Borough Council awarded a professional services contract to Monmouth Ocean Hospital Service Corporation ("MONOC") in the amount of \$139,000.00 for the provision of professional emergency medical services (EMS) for the one year period ending January 2, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with a directive from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the Borough is in the process of issuing formal Requests for Proposals for 2007 services, and it will not be possible to have a contract awarded for the new term prior to the expiration of the existing contract with MONOC on January 3, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, MONOC has proposed to provide services for the period January 3, 2007 through March 5, 2007 for a total cost of \$32,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, MONOC has agreed to credit the Borough in the amount of \$7,992.00 for hours put in by volunteer members of the Hightstown First Aid Squad during 2006, and to provide an additional credit, if warranted, for time put in by Squad members through March 5, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator has recommended that Change Order No. 1 to the existing contract with MONOC be approved to extend the contract through March 5, 2007 and to incorporate a credit to the Borough for time put in by volunteer members of the Hightstown First Aid Squad, as follows:

Extension of contract through March 5, 2007	\$32,000.00
Credit for 2006 service by volunteer Squad members	<u>(7,992.00)</u>
<b>NET TOTAL CHANGE ORDER</b>	<b><u>\$24,008.00</u></b>
<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>17.27%</b>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Monmouth Ocean Hospital Service Corporation ("MONOC") for the provision of professional emergency medical services in the net total amount of \$24,008.00 as outlined herein is hereby approved, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute same.
2. This Resolution, when duly executed by MONOC and signed by the Mayor and Borough Clerk, shall serve as Change Order No. 1 to the contract, and shall be kept on file in the Borough Clerk's office along with the original agreement.

3. Approval of this change order is subject to and contingent upon the provision of adequate funding in the Borough's 2007 temporary budget to cover the necessary services. When applicable, the Chief Financial Officer is directed to file a certificate of availability of sufficient funds for this contract and to attach same to this Resolution.
4. Notice of the adoption of this Resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Borough.
5. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:
  - a. MONOC (Attn: Vincent Robbins, President and CEO)
  - b. Margaret Keavney, Esq. (MONOC General Counsel)
  - c. Arlene O'Rourke, Borough Treasurer
  - d. George Lang, Borough Chief Financial Officer
  - e. James Eufemia, Borough Police Chief
  - f. Hightstown First Aid Squad
  - g. Candace Gallagher, Borough Administrator/Clerk
  - h. Frederick C. Raffetto, Esquire, Borough Attorney

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, **Resolutions 2006-286 and 287** were moved by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Council President Schneider.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolutions adopted, 5-0.**

#### **RESOLUTION 2006-286      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**WHEREAS**, certain bills are due and payable as per itemized claims listed on the following schedules, which are made a part of the minutes of this meeting as a supplemental record;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bills be paid on audit and approval of the Borough Administrator and the Treasurer in the amount of **\$772,941.46** from the following accounts:

Current	\$ 433,966.68
W/S Operating	209,049.30
General Capital	96,280.85
W/S Capital	13,700.37
Animal Control	221.74
Trust	6,553.46
Unemployment Trust	1000.19
Public Defender	801.35
Lien Trust	2,527.04
Escrow-Subdivision & Site Plan (First Washington Bank)	4,818.20
RCA – COAH	2,700.00
Grant	1,322.28
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$772,941.46</u></b>

**RESOLUTION 2006-287****AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS IN THE 2006 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:4-58 provides that the governing body may authorize a transfer of funds in the budget during the last two months of the fiscal year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the following transfers in the 2006 budget are hereby authorized:

<b>CURRENT BUDGET:</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>
<i>Inside Cap:</i>		
Office Supplies / Paper Products – Other Expenses		500.00
Data Processing / IT – Other Expenses	500.00	
Community Services Act – Other Expenses	3,000.00	
Telephone – Other Expenses		1,200.00
Gas / Heating Oil – Other Expenses	1,200.00	
<i>Outside Cap:</i>		
Insurance – Other Expenses		3,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,700.00</b>	<b>\$4,700.00</b>

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, **Resolution 2006-289** was moved by Councilmember Quattrone and seconded by Councilmember Sikorski.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolution adopted, 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION 2006-289**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXISTING 2006 TAXICAB DRIVER'S AND TAXICAB OWNER'S LICENSES, AND AUTHORIZING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN NEW TAXICAB DRIVER'S AND TAXICAB OWNER'S LICENSES, THROUGH MARCH 5, 2007**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has previously issued a number of taxicab driver's and taxicab owner's licenses for the year 2006, pursuant to Section 4-21 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* (also referenced as the "Borough Code"); and

**WHEREAS**, it has been brought to the Borough's attention that certain taxicab businesses are currently being operated out of dwellings within zoning districts of the Borough that are predominantly residential in character, including but not limited to the R-1, the R-3 and/or the R-PO districts, and that these businesses are parking numerous commercial vehicles on their properties and/or on the streets adjacent to their properties; and

**WHEREAS**, it has also been brought to the Borough's attention that said activities have become a nuisance to the adjacent property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Code does not permit the operation of such businesses, in the manner that they are currently being operated, within the aforesaid zoning districts of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, the Borough may commence enforcement actions against the above-referenced taxicab businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the commencement of such enforcement actions, the Borough wishes to provide the said taxicab businesses with a reasonable period of time to relocate their business activities to areas where such activities are permitted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough believes that a reasonable period of time is approximately sixty (60) days, or through March 5, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, during that period of time, the Borough will permit the said taxicab businesses to continue operations at their current locations, but shall place them on notice immediately of the necessity for them to relocate to areas that are more conducive to the types of commercial activities that are being conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for the said taxicab businesses to continue operations, the Borough must approve the continuation of their taxicab driver's and taxicab owner's licenses; and

**WHEREAS**, in view of the zoning issues which have arisen with respect to the location of the said taxicab businesses, the Borough does not wish to renew licenses that are associated with the said taxicab businesses for the year 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes, instead, to authorize a temporary extension of the existing 2006 taxicab driver's and taxicab owner's licenses of those licensees that are associated with the said taxicab businesses, with such licenses to be extended only through March 5, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of this temporary extension not to deprive existing licensees of their ability to operate while they are seeking to relocate their business activities elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS**, this temporary extension is not to be interpreted or construed as any admission on the part of the Borough that the taxicab businesses have any right to continue to operate their business activities at their current locations; and

**WHEREAS**, after March 5, 2007, the Borough may determine to pursue enforcement actions against any taxicab businesses that remain operating out of dwellings within zoning districts of the Borough that are predominantly residential in character; and

**WHEREAS**, during the period of time through March 5, 2007, the Borough also wishes to place a moratorium on the issuance of any new taxicab driver's or taxicab owner's licenses that are intended to be utilized in connection with any taxicab business that wishes to operate out of a dwelling within a zoning district of the Borough that is predominantly residential in character.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Borough hereby authorizes a temporary extension of the existing 2006 taxicab driver's and taxicab owner's licenses of those licensees that are associated with taxicab businesses that are currently operating out of dwellings within zoning districts of the Borough that are predominantly residential in character, with such licenses to be extended only through March 5, 2007.
2. That, during the period of time through March 5, 2007, the Borough also wishes to place a moratorium on the issuance of any new taxicab driver's or taxicab owner's licenses that are intended to be utilized in connection with any taxicab business that wishes to operate out of a dwelling within a zoning district of the Borough that is predominantly residential in character.
3. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:
  - a. Relevant Taxicab licensees
  - b. Candace Gallagher, Business Administrator/Clerk
  - c. Harry Wetterskog, Borough Zoning/Code/Housing Inspector
  - d. Frederick C. Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, **Resolution 2006-290** was moved by Councilmember Sikorski and seconded by Council President Schneider.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolution adopted, 5-0.**



**RESOLUTION 2006-290****RE-APPOINTING DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

**WHEREAS**, Kristy Gilsenan of Robbinsville, New Jersey, has served as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator since September 26, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Gilsenan's appointed term expired as of September 26, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2-24.4 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* provides that there shall be a Deputy Municipal Court Administrator who shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year by the Mayor and Council upon the recommendation of the Municipal Court Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Court Administrator has recommended that Ms. Gilsenan be re-appointed as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator effective September 26, 2006;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Kristy Gilsenan of Robbinsville, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed to the position of Deputy Court Administrator for a one-year term beginning September 26, 2006, and that such appointment shall be deemed to be effective as of that date.

Following a brief review by Mr. Lang, **Resolution 2006-291** was moved by Council President Schneider and seconded by Councilmember Sikorski.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolution adopted, 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION 2006-291****RESOLUTION CANCELING 2006 APPROPRIATION BALANCES**

**WHEREAS**, the following Current Fund budget appropriation balances remain unexpended:

<b>Matching Funds for Grants</b>	<b><u>\$4,500.00</u></b>
----------------------------------	--------------------------

; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to surplus;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Hightstown, that the above listed unexpended balances of the Current Fund 2006 Budget be canceled.

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, **Resolution 2006-292** was moved by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Sikorski.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

**Resolution adopted, 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION 2006-292****AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, tax overpayments has been received by the Borough as follows:

Refund to:	Amount of Overpayment:	Block & Lot #	Property Address:
First American Real Estate Tax Services 1 First American Way Mail Code DFW 1-3 Westlake, TX 76262 Attn: Tax Refunds	\$1,974.68	Block 18, Lot 3.01	136 Purdy Street
	\$1,064.22	Block 2.01, Lot 1 C0168	182 Mill Run East
	\$1,207.34	Block 2.01, Lot 1 C0187	34 Dennis Court
Countrywide Home Loans 1757 Tapo Canyon Road, Suite 300 Simi Valley, CA 93063 Attn: Refund Unit	\$1,409.81	Block 9, Lot 82	169 Lincoln Avenue
	\$2,372.06	Block 3.01, Lot 55	21 Maple Avenue
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage 1 Home Campus X2502-011 Des Moines, IA 50328	\$2,000.56	Block 3.01, Lot 57	20 Maple Avenue

; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has requested permission to refund the overpayments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Tax Collector and Treasurer are hereby authorized to refund the tax overpayments set forth herein.

Ms. Gallagher reviewed the provisions of **Resolution 2006-288**, which would waive permit fees for residents of Cole Avenue and Clinton Street which are associated with replacement of their old water service lines, at the Borough's urging, in conjunction with the Borough's reconstruction of that street. She explained that it will benefit the Borough for residents to replace their old piping at this time, in order to minimize the possibility of leaks in the future. The Resolution was moved by Councilmember Sikorski and seconded by Councilmember Harinxma. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Schneider said that he does not like the idea that someone will *not* replace their piping, and asked if it had been contemplated to have the pipes replaced by the Borough where needed, with the cost assessed to those homeowners. Council President Sikorski stated that, if something did happen that caused the road to have to be opened, the resident would incur a penalty of \$5,000, so it would be "penny wise and pound foolish" for them not to have that work done at this time. Councilman Quattrone stated, "We just voted to raise the water rates and now we're voting to exempt fees." He noted that, when we run water mains, we run the laterals off to the curb box. Those are not in the street, he said. The curb box is the connection between the street and the house, and that line is prior to the meter, and the responsibility of the homeowner. "Why exempt them?" he asked. Councilmember Schneider noted that our inspectors will be there anyway, so some costs would not be incurred. Councilman Quattrone said that many towns have moved their meters to the curb boxes.

After further discussion, it was generally agreed that this issue would be postponed for discussion, along with the Borough Engineer, at the January 16 meeting. In the meantime, the 2006 Resolution would be defeated.

**Roll Call:** Councilmembers Quattrone, Harinxma, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted NO.  
Councilmember Rosenberg was absent.

Resolution DEFEATED, 5-0. Further discussion will take place at the January 16, 2007 regular Council Meeting.

## DISCUSSION

### JANUARY 1 REORGANIZATION MEETING ITEMS

Ms. Gallagher asked the Mayor and Council if they wished to incorporate a four-day extended workday schedule during the summer, as was successfully instituted in 2006, in their Resolution to be adopted on January 1 which sets Borough office hours. Council President Sikorski expressed support for this, but after discussion, it was generally agreed that this should be discussed at a future Council meeting and a determination made at that time.

Ms. Gallagher also noted that it had been suggested to her that the January 1 meeting take place at 6 p.m. in future years, rather than at noon, and asked if Council would like to make this change on the Resolution to be adopted on January 1 that would establish the meeting date and time for the 2008 reorganization meeting. This was discussed briefly. Council President Sikorski expressed support for the 6 p.m. meeting time, and Councilmembers Harinxma and Schneider felt that 3 p.m. would be better. Councilman Quattrone said that he has no problem with the 12 noon meeting time. Given the various points of view, it was determined to maintain the status quo for the time being, and address this later in 2007 if Council determines that the meeting time should change.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Council President Sikorski and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC  
Borough Clerk