

Meeting Minutes

Hightstown Borough Council

Special Joint Meeting – May 19, 2010 – 7:30 pm

Hightstown High School, Hightstown, New Jersey

**Hightstown Borough/East Windsor Township/East Windsor Regional School
Board of Education**

The special joint meeting of the East Windsor Township Council, Hightstown Borough Council and the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education was called to order by Mayor Janice S. Mironov at 7:35 p.m. on May 19, 2010.

Municipal Clerk Cindy A. Dye certified that the meeting was noticed in the Special Corrected Meeting Notice. Notice was sent to the Trenton Times, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted in the East Windsor Township Municipal Building, all on May 6, 2010. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Present were: Mayor Janice S. Mironov, Council Members Hector Duke, Alan Rosenberg, Perry Shapiro and Marsha Weinstein. Also present were: Township Manager Alan M. Fisher, Township Attorney David E. Orron and Municipal Clerk Cindy A. Dye.

Municipal Clerk Debra Sopronyi 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.

Present were: Mayor Robert Patten, Council President Lawrence Quattrone, Council Members Jeffrey Bond, Isabel McGinty, Dimitri Musing, Walter L. Sikorski and Michael Theokas. Also present was: Municipal Clerk Debra Sopronyi.

President Alice Weisman stated "Written advance notice of this meeting was provided at least 48 hours ago. Such notice provided the time, date and location of this meeting and included the agenda to the extent it was known at time. Notice of this meeting has been prominently posted on the door of the District Administration Building. The notice was faxed to Trenton Times, Windsor Hights Herald and the Trentonian, which are the Board's designated newspapers for such notification. Notice has also been filed with the East Windsor Township Clerk and Hightstown Borough Clerk. Minutes of this meeting are being kept by the Board Secretary and will be made available promptly to any member of the public requesting them from the Board Secretary at the Administration Building, 384 Stockton Street, Hightstown, New Jersey. Minutes will be provided at cost and in accordance with Board policy."

Present were: Board President Alice Weisman, Board Members Robert Laverty (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Paul Connolly, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Christine Harrington, Susan Lloyd and Kennedy Paul.

Board President Weisman requested that everyone stand for the flag salute.

Mayor Mironov indicated that this meeting is convened pursuant to the process required after the defeat of the East Windsor Regional School District school budget on April 20. This is a mandated process. During the time between the meetings as well as prior to the last public meeting the three bodies exchanged information, reviewed the various materials and had a continuous dialog regarding the budget and issues related thereto.

Mayor Mironov called on the following people who signed up to speak regarding the budget:

Bonnie Crisco of 18 Wendover Road, East Windsor; Hannah Crisco of 18 Wendover Road, East Windsor; Joan Upbin of 518 Dutch Neck Road, East Windsor; Dick Tuliszewski of 10 Taylor Avenue, Hightstown; Terri Tuliszewski of 10 Taylor Avenue, Hightstown; Stu Dulgon of 119 Danbury Court, East Windsor; Lynne Woods of 315 Park Avenue, Hightstown; Amy Gazalen of 40 Brooklawn Drive, Eat Windsor; Gary Lucas of 14 Maple Avenue, Hightstown, Michael Winkler of 28 Morrsgate Circle, East Windsor; Janice Mastriano of 15 Leshin Lane, Hightstown; Ellen Murphy of 18 Millstone Drive, East Windsor; Darwin Page of 60 One Mile Road, East Windsor; Pat Laudate, teacher of the Watler C. Black School; Virginio Cavalli of 224 Oak Creek Circle, East Windsor; Thomas Niebojewski of 614 Greenwih Court, East Widnsor; Marianne Lewith of 6 Spruce Road, East Windsor; Rachelle St. Phard of 4 Lexington Court; Denis Kenny of 12 Woodland Drive; Joanne Zapicchi of 11 Chambers Court, Robbinsville; Colleen Murphy of 36 Twin Rivers Drive North and David Abalor of 30 Shadowstone Lane, East Windsor

At this time there was a 10 minute recess, during which time the committees of the two municipalities met in special session.

Mayor Mironov stated that at this point there is a resolution to put forward.

Mayor Patten read Resolution 2010-133 in its entirety.

Hightstown Borough

Resolution 2010-133 was moved by QUATTRONE and seconded by SIKORSKI.

Councilmember Isabel McGinty spoke against the proposed cuts and stated that she is going to vote No.

Councilmember Jeffrey Bond stated that the voters have spoken and he commended the Council Committees for their hard work. He felt the cuts were a good compromise and that the system of a failed school budget is horrible since the governing bodies do not have the knowledge of a school budget to make these decisions. He encouraged the public to contact their legislatures to encourage change to the process.

Councilmember Dimitri Musing agreed with Councilmember Bond that the system is broken. He felt there are other ways to cut taxes and he could not vote for more cuts.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Bond, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas
Nays – McGinty, Musing

There being four (4) ayes and two (2) nays, Resolution 2010-133 was adopted.

Resolution 2010-133

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**RESOLUTION REGARDING DEFEATED 2010-11 BUDGET OF THE EAST
WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, in an election held on April 20, 2010, the proposed East Windsor Regional School District budget for the school year 2010-2011, with a proposed general fund tax levy in the amount of \$56,804,450, was defeated in all but one voting district, by a total of 2,159 votes to 1,565 votes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 provides that if the voters reject any items of a budget submitted at the annual school election, thereafter, the member governing bodies of each municipality within a regional school district shall consult with the board of education and determine the amounts which they deem necessary to provide a thorough and efficient system of schools for the regional district for the ensuing year; and

WHEREAS, joint open public meetings of the Hightstown Borough Council, East Windsor Township Council, and East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education, to hear public comment and to review the defeated budget, were held on May 11, 2010 and May 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, these budget adjustments are being made in consultation with, and with the concurrence of, the East Windsor Township Council and the East Windsor Regional School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. For reasons set forth on the attached, the following sums shall be raised by taxation in the East Windsor Regional District and certified to be necessary to provide a thorough and efficient system of schools:

Current Expenses: \$55,836,916

This represents a reduction of \$967,534 from the 2010-2011 proposed budget.

2. The Municipal Clerk shall forward a copy of the Resolution certifying the amounts to be raised for current expenses to the East Windsor Regional School District, the Council of East Windsor Township, the Hightstown Borough Tax Assessor, the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools and the Mercer County Board of Taxation, no later than May 19, 2010.

East Windsor Township

Mayor Mironov indicated that East Windsor Resolution R2010-101 was identical to the resolution read in fully by Mayor Patten.

Resolution R2010-101 was moved by SHAPIRO and seconded by ROSENBERG.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Duke, Rosenberg, Shapiro, Weinstein, Mironov
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2010-101 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION R2010-101
EAST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, in an election held on April 20, 2010, the proposed East Windsor Regional School District budget for the school year 2010-2011, with a proposed general fund tax levy in the amount of \$56,804,450, was defeated in all but one voting district, by a total of 2,159 votes to 1,565 votes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 provides that if the voters reject any items of a budget submitted at the annual school election, thereafter, the member governing bodies of each municipality within a regional school district shall consult with the board of education and determine the amounts which they deem necessary to provide a thorough and efficient system of schools for the regional district for the ensuing year; and

WHEREAS, joint open public meetings of the East Windsor Township Council, Hightstown Borough Council, and East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education, to hear public comment and to review the defeated budget, were held on May 11, 2010 and May 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, these budget adjustments are being made in consultation with the East Windsor Regional School District, and with the concurrence of the Hightstown Borough Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of East Windsor, County of Mercer, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. For reasons set forth on the attached, the following sums shall be raised by taxation in the East Windsor Regional District and certified to be necessary to provide a thorough and efficient system of schools:

Current Expenses: \$55,836,916

This represents a reduction of \$967,534 from the 2010-2011 proposed budget.

2. The Municipal Clerk shall forward a copy of the Resolution certifying the amounts to be raised for current expenses to the East Windsor Regional School District, the Council of Hightstown Borough, the East Windsor Township Tax Assessor, the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools and the Mercer County Board of Taxation, no later than May 19, 2010.

There being no further business Mayor Mironov adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi
Borough Clerk