

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hightstown Borough Council**  
**Budget Meeting**  
**May 10, 2010     6:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Patten at 6:00 pm and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated, "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

The Flag Salute was followed by Roll call.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bond</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember McGinty</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Theokas</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Herbert Massa, Borough Administrator; and George Lang, Chief Finance Officer.

Council President Quattrone motioned to accept the agenda, Councilmember Sikorski seconded, all approved.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment. There being none, the public comment period was closed.

**Resolution 2010-124 Awarding a Contract for Aluminum Removal Pilot Services**

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2010-124, Councilmember Sikorski seconded.

Councilmembers Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes.

Resolution 2010-124 approved 6 – 0.

Resolution 2010-124

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

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR ALUMINUM REMOVAL PILOT SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requires that Hightstown Borough perform a pilot study to confirm that the aluminum removal plan proposed for Well #3 will adequately and appropriately remove the aluminum prior to putting the new well into operation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer has solicited quotes for a aluminum removal pilot services to evaluate aluminum in the water supply for the Water Plant in Hightstown Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, of the six vendors contacted, only Blueleaf Incorporated of Charlton, MA responded with a quote for these services in the amount of \$19,240.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Engineer has reviewed the quote received and has determined that the specifications in the quote submitted will meet the requirements of NJDEP to perform the pilot study; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds for this expenditure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Blueleaf Incorporated of Charlton, MA be retained to perform the aluminum removal pilot services as required by NJDEP in the amount of \$19,240.00, provided they submit the New Jersey Business Registration Certificate as required.

#### **Resolution 2010-125 Appointing a Sub-Committee to Review the Proposals for Special Counsel**

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2010-125, Councilmember Sikorski seconded.

Councilmembers Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes.

Resolution 2010-125 approved 6 – 0.

Resolution 2010-125

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

#### **APPOINTING A SUB-COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL LABOR COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 2010-106 which was adopted by the Hightstown Borough Council at their meeting of May 3, 2010 authorized negotiations with East Windsor Township and the hiring of Special Labor Counsel in regards to the Police and Court Shared Services Study; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent has requested proposals for Special Labor Counsel with expertise in Police negotiations and said proposals were advertised and are due by Wednesday, May 26, 2010; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council wishes to appoint Councilmembers Isabel McGinty, Dimitri Musing and Michael Theokas to serve as a sub-committee to review and evaluate the proposals received for Special Labor Counsel.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council hereby appoints Councilmembers Isabel McGinty, Dimitri Musing and Michael Theokas to serve as a sub-committee to review and evaluate the proposals received for Special Labor Counsel.

#### **Budget Discussion**

Herb Massa distributed and reviewed information previously requested by Council. George Lang gave an overview of the budget as it currently stands and impact factors on the tax rate. Council was reminded that the current rate is within all cap laws at 12.42 points.

There was considerable discussion regarding health benefits and furloughs followed by general discussion concerning tax appeals and their effect on the budget. There was concern that furloughing office employees would cause a backlog of work due to the limited number of personnel and it was also commented that the furloughing of Public Works employees would impact infrastructure.

The Chief of Police presented a plan for furloughs for the Police Department and informed Council that the Police are willing to accept the change in health benefits and furloughs if Council ceases negotiations with East Windsor for shared Police services. Discussion ensued on this matter. There was concern as to how Police furloughs would effect overtime in that department.

Council President Quattrone left at 7:00 pm to meet another meeting obligation.

Discussion then ensued regarding tax sales and liens, Mr. Lang explained the process to Council. Mr. Massa asked Council for direction and was instructed to focus on negotiating for the State Health Benefit Plan to avoid lay-offs or furloughs.

Councilmember Sikorski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm and Councilmember Theokas seconded; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi

Borough Clerk