

April 23, 2007

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor Burke presiding.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Augustine, Committeewoman Niemann, Robert Beriont, Laura Hartner, Clerk MacConnell, Deputy Clerk Brown. Following the salute to the Flag Mayor Burke read aloud the following:

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Express Times on April 21, 2007 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to the Delaware Valley News, Courier News and Star Ledger on April 19, 2007. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on April 19, 2007.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee or Board, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BUDGET - B. Beriont and L. Hartner

Mayor Burke welcomed Roberta Beriont, Business Administrator/Secretary and Laura Hartner, Superintendent from the local elementary school. Ms. Beriont explained their 2007-2008 budget. She also commented on a new funding formula from the State which only allowed 4% tax levy over last year, plus 2% for health benefits and only allowed 6% this year. She also explained they have made several reductions, which were in the Special Ed Department, reducing a teacher, and a Special Technical Consultant which will be switched from an outside consultant to an in house. Ms. Hartner commented that there are no new additions including no new text books.

Committeewoman E. Niemann commented that in reviewing the budget, federal funding has dropped drastically. She also feels that their budget looks very lean and feels it is not necessary for any additional cuts.

Deputy Mayor Augustine stated that when speaking with the local senior citizens they expressed that the school did not ask for an increase in the budget and they were not against voting for it. Since there will be no deductions from the budget, Ms. Augustine expressed that the Committee should do something to satisfy the voters who turned down the budget by responding in some way.

Mayor Burke commented on the tax ratable and feels they should go up and the tax levy should go down. Mr. Burke feels there should be no addition cuts. Also he would like to see the school keep up with text book replacement.

RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 38

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF KINGWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF
HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN REGARD
TO CERTIFICATION OF THE LOCAL TAX LEVY FOR THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Kingwood Township School District presented to voters at the annual school election held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 a question concerning the tax levy requirements for the said Board of Education for the General Fund for the ensuing school year (2007/2008), in the amount of \$4,774,618; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Township of Kingwood defeated the General Fund question by the following votes:

184 ayes

247 noes

WHEREAS, the said Board of Education transmitted the Budget for the 2007/2008 school year to the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood on April 19, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood thoroughly reviewed the Budget and related information as presented by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, a joint meeting of the representatives of the Kingwood Township Committee and said Board of Education was held on April 23, 2007 to discuss the Budget as submitted by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, careful consideration has been given by the Township to the information received from said Board of Education and the discussion which ensued, with a view toward providing a thorough and efficient system of education in the school system of said Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey and Board of Education have agreed not to reduce the tax levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is directed to certify by May 21, 2007 to the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation, the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Kingwood Township School District, the Kingwood Township Tax Assessor and to any other parties required by law to receive such certification, that the amount of \$4,774,618 is necessary to be raised by taxation for the General Fund, for the ensuing school year 2007/2008;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the persons and/or departments herein named, for certification purposes.

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to adopt a Resolution to approve the Kingwood Township Budget for 2007 - 2008, as it was presented to the voters with no reductions.

Roll Call Vote: **AYE** - **Augustine, Burke, Niemann**
 NAY - **None**
 ABSTAIN - **None**
 ABSENT - **None**

Superintendent Laura Hartner described some of the programs the school sponsored to attract residents to the school.

Mayor Burke commented on the need for job to be completed on Thatcher Road. The Township Engineer recommended that the Township hire a wetlands professional to resolve the problems for these large projects on the Township roads. A wetlands delineation will begin for Thatcher Road following the adoption of a Resolution. Permits are all the Township needs at this time from the D.E.P.

Mayor Burke read aloud the proposed Resolution.

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 39

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the provision of wetland delineation and permitting services in connection with Oak Grove Road and Thatcher Road improvements and related wetlands delineations and required NJDEP permits for the Township of Kingwood; and

WHEREAS, funds are or will be made available for this purpose to be certified by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, *et seq.*) authorizes the hiring of a professional, such as a professional wetland scientist, without competitive bidding providing that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Kingwood, Hunterdon County, as follows:

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1. Amy S. Greene of Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc. is hereby engaged to perform professional wetland delineation and permitting services for the Township of Kingwood.

2. The Mayor and Clerk shall enter into a mutually agreeable written Professional Services Agreement, the form of which is attached hereto as Schedule A, with Amy S. Greene within fourteen (14) days of the date of this resolution generally in accordance with the terms of proposals submitted by her, one for services as to Oak Grove Road and the other for services as to Thatcher Road, attached hereto as Exhibits A & B, respectively, together with a billing rate list attached hereto as Exhibit C.

3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in the Delaware Valley News and the Express Times as required by law, within ten days of its passage.

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:	AYE	- Augustine, Niemann, Burke
	NAY	- None
	ABSTAIN	- None
	ABSENT	- None

Mayor Burke reported briefly on a meeting with the D.O.T. Also stated the grant money the Township received probably will not be enough for the project. The Township has received an extension of time. Union Road from bridge to Route 519 also has to be completed.

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown, RMC
Deputy Clerk