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KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Special Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2008

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with Mayor Augustine presiding.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Burke, Committeewoman Niemann, and Deputy Clerk Brown. Following the salute to the Flag, Mayor Augustine 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 Delaware Valley News and the Express Times on April 17, 2008 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to Courier News and Star Ledger on April 14, 2008. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on April 14, 2008.

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.

7:00 P.M. - KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BUDGET - Introduction and Adoption of Resolution No. 2008 - 66

Mayor Augustine read aloud the Resolution to be introduced. Committeewoman Niemann reviewed last years school budget and that it was reinstated.

Mrs. Niemann explained that it was a zero increase in the budget, therefore, it was not reduced since it had not increased. She explained that this year there is a small increase in the budget, but she feels that the Township Committee should try to reduce the budget, as for the voters. Roberta Beriont, Business Administrator/Secretary and Laura Hartner, Superintendent from the local School were present. They reviewed several aspects of the budget, and explained how they worked to cut and save money. They expressed their feelings for the school and feel that they are doing an excellent job to provide a great school for the youths of Kingwood Township.

Deputy Mayor Burke asked a few questions about the increase of their budget. He also expressed how he would like to work and support more as a Township with the school. He explained that the Township is looking for a decrease of \$25,000.00 in the school budget. The Township Committee feels they have a responsibility to the voters. They feel that the taxpayers are struggling at this time. Mr. Burke invited the public to speak in public comment.

Public Comment:

Leigh Ann Cascio - Dalrympleway Explained that she has been a resident for 12 years, a PTA member, served as a member on the Education Foundation for the Kingwood Township School, and volunteers often in the classroom. She explained how she attended all the budget presentations at the school. She expressed her feels as she was very hopeful that the budget passed. Mrs. Cascio encouraged the Township Committee to do what they can to support the budget.

Tom Proctor-Kingsridge Road Expressed his feelings on the importance to making decisions for the children, as it is very important to improve their development.

Deputy Mayor Burke stated that it is a difficult decision, and that the Township is willing to work with the school. He also stated that the Township would like to support the school's treatment plant. He feels that \$25,000 is not an unreasonable amount to ask for a reduction. Committeewoman Niemann explained that the Township must make an effort to respond to the citizens of the Township who voted.

The School Representatives thanked the Township Committee.

RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 - 66

**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 15, 2008 a question concerning the tax levy requirements for the said Board of Education for the General Fund for the ensuing school year (2008/2009), in the amount of \$4,965,603; and

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

171 ayes 270 noes

WHEREAS, the said Board of Education transmitted the Budget for the 2008/2009 school year to the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood on April 16, 2008; 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 21, 2008 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 to the following reductions in the tax levy totaling \$25,000; and

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11-000-262-300 Purchased, Professional, and Technical Services \$25,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is directed to certify by May 19, 2008 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 \$4,940,603 is necessary to be raised by taxation for the General Fund, for the ensuing school year 2008/2009;

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

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

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

AWARD BID FOR DPW - Maintenance Repair and Materials

The award of bids for maintenance repair and materials will be postponed until April 22, 2008, at 5:30 P.M. at a scheduled public meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 - 67 Flood Issues

The Committee members discussed how they are in support of a \$12,000 fund for Blue Acres Program in support of bill 1804.

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

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

Deputy Mayor Burke discussed speaking to the Township's attorney in reference to the leases of the rental properties. She will be preparing the leases for the May meeting.

Mr. Burke stated that his rent will be \$1,000, and an offset by \$100 to maintain the grass and area surrounding the home. He explained that his rent will be \$900 a month.

There was also a discussion on the lease for the new park director.

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mr. Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, RMC
Deputy Clerk