

Special Township Committee Meeting

Minutes

June 24, 2016

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on June 24, 2016 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING CALLED** Mayor Gilbert called the regular meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL** The following were present: Mayor Karen Gilbert, Deputy Mayor Michael Mangin, Comm. Richard Chen and Comm. Louis Reiner.

**MEETING ADVERTISED** Mayor Gilbert advised that the meeting was noticed on Wednesday, June 21, 2016 by providing notice to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Courier-News, Trenton Times and Express Times in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and posted on the office bulletin board and the Township Website.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mayor Gilbert asks all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and to remain standing for a Moment of Silence to remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces and in particular those serving in troubled areas around the world.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** It is the policy of the Township Committee that public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person on any subject.

*Kerry Rhea- Local Historians Committee-267 Old Croton Road, asked if any other committee budgets were cut to zero, when it was cut and why their liaison did not inform them. Ms. Rhea said the cut will force the committee to cancel its annual bus trip. Ms. Rhea asked how does the Committee expect the Historians Committee to participate in Community Day without s budget.*

*Richard Stothoff- Historians Committee-1 Tuccamirgan Road, said he wanted to know the reason why the committee's funds were cut from the budget.*

Mayor Gilbert said there are no other committees that have budgets. Mayor Gilbert said the Committee worked to make cuts throughout the budget and a member of the Committee wanted the Historians Committee budget reduced to zero. Mayor Gilbert said the Historians Committee should have been told of the cuts.

*Jeannie Geremia-Historians Committee-2 Greewood Place, asked if the cuts were permanent.*

Mayor Gilbert said the cuts was for this year's budget.

**NEW BUSINESS** Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution #16-156 the 2016 Municipal Budget  
Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing on the 2016 Municipal Budget.

*DPW Supervisor Don Hutchins told the Committee said the adoption of the budget was critical to allow enough time for his department to perform road repairs this*

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year.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to close the public hearing, motion Deputy Mayor Mangin, seconded by Com. Chen. Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-156-2016 Municipal Budget, motion by Com. Chen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mangin.

Roll Call	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Karen Gilbert, Mayor			X			
Michael Mangin, Deputy Mayor		X	X			
Richard Chen, Committee Member	X		X			
Craig O'Brien, Committee Member						X
Lou Reiner, Committee Member				X		

Deputy Mayor Mangin made the following statement with his vote and requested it be reflected in full in the minutes:

*“The Introduction of the Budget was 1.66% and I thought it was a good budget with a \$1,680,000 roughly in long term bonds. At our last meeting, budget meeting, Mr. O’Brien had suggested for planning purposes that we should move \$56,000 out of long term bonding and moved to the expense side. To me that was a rounding error in bonding and Capital Expenditure. Capital Expenditures moved from 1.68 to maybe 1.61, estimate. It’s nonsensical but it moved it over to the expense side to where we have to charge our taxpayers immediately and again long term bonding is an expense to taxpayers over a longer period of time. It brings it up over 2 percent and I don’t think it needs to be over 2 percent on budget, I would never vote normally for a budget over 2 percent. But let’s take a look at the situation here. The situation is drastic. We could be fined soon by the DCA. If we vote the budget down today, with four members with one not showing, then we have to reintroduce the budget as Mr. Hutchins said after we’ve already discussed it, so we would be looking at an August time frame and he cannot complete his work. Jerry, I would think you would agree with me that at that time tax bills would have to be estimated which are an additional cost to taxpayers and then budget once it is finalized would have to change the tax bills for customer. And as Don said now we can’t do the roads which are a very important part of the budget and for the taxpayers of this town. So I would normally not vote yes, I would be voting no over 2 percent. Especially with Flemington-Raritan Schools well over 2 percent this year. I think it’s a ridiculous situation, we should have accepted the budget as it was introduced and not make the minor changes. But I am voting yes to keep the town running.”*

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Vote-3-1, Motion carried.

Mayor asked if there were any other items of business to be addressed.

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Deputy Mayor Mangin excused himself from the meeting

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion was made by Comm. Chen and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Vote: 3 – 0 motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

William Bray  
Acting Township Clerk