

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Reorganization/Regular Meeting

January 5, 2011

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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Township Clerk Calls Meeting to Order

Salute to the Flag

Township Clerk Reports that at the Municipal Election held on November 2, 2010, the following persons were elected:

Russell W. Felter for a Four Year Term as Mayor
Debi Merz to the Township Council for a Four Year Term
Michael Sanchelli to the Township Council for a Four Year Term
Jay Dunham to the Township Council to fill an Unexpired Two Year Term

The Oath of Office was Administered to:

Debi Merz as her husband Hank held the Bible

Michael Sanchelli as his wife, Debbie held the Bible

Jay Dunham as his wife, Bonnie-Jo held the Bible

Township Clerk calls for nominations for Council President

Sanchelli nominated Yocum. There were no further nominations.

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye
Mr. Yocum	Aye

Council President Conducts Remainder of the Meeting

Present

Mr. Dunham
Mrs. Merz
Mr. Sanchelli
Mr. Birmingham
President Yocum
Lawrence Cohen, Township Attorney
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Mayor Felter and Administrator James Leach are present."

Notice of Presiding Officer

Council President Yocum said, "This Regular/Reorganizational Council meeting for January 5, 2011, commencing at 7:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on December 30, 2010."

Invocation

Father P. Christopher Muldoon, the Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church came forward and delivered the invocation.

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Council President Called for Nominations for Council Vice President

Merz nominated Birmingham. There were no further nominations.

Motion: Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Mayor's Appointments

(2-A)

Felter thanked the Council, the members of his staff and his Administrator.

Yocum commented that Felter will read his appointments and the Council will vote on the Advice and Consent portion after the Mayor takes his Oath. Felter read his appointments.

Council's Appointments

(2-B)

Yocum read the Council's appointments and Council President's Appointments

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

The Oath of Office was Administered to:

Russell W. Felter as his wife Tammy held the Bible and his family stood around him.

The Council voted on the Advice and Consent portion of the Mayor's Appointments

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Sanchelli said he would like to thank the voters because if it were not for them, the Council would not be here. Sanchelli said this is his fourth term on the Council and he hopes they have succeeded in bringing costs down in many areas. The Council is very diverse and works very well together. Sanchelli said he would like to thank the Administrator and everyone that works in the building.

Merz said she would like to thank her husband and her daughters, her grandchildren and her friends that are in the audience. Merz said she considers Jefferson her home and she considers everyone that she comes in contact with a friend. Merz said that she is looking forward to year 13 and she is always available.

Dunham said he would like to thank his wife for her support during his campaigns. Dunham said participation in government is very important and it is the key to success. Dunham thanked everyone who took the time out of their schedule to attend this evening. Dunham said he is privileged to be a part of this Council. Dunham commented on the safe condition of the roads during the last snowstorm. Dunham said it is a tough year ahead of everyone not only in Jefferson but in the Country. The goal is to keep the employees in the Township employed. Dunham said he is fortunate to be working with a group of people that have brought the municipal portion of the taxes in under the 2 percent cap that has now become law. Dunham again thanked everyone for

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attending this evening.

Felter thanked his family and especially his wife Tammy for their support.

Assemblyman Anthony Bucco came forward and said he would like to congratulate the Council and the Mayor and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Resolution, Proclamation and Joint Senate/Assembly Resolution Honoring Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients: Alyssa M. Romano & Stephanie A. Nadler

(3-A)

Assemblyman Bucco said that one of the nice things he has the privilege of doing is presenting young men and women with Joint Senate/Assembly Resolutions when they achieve their Gold Award or Eagle Scout Award. Bucco commented that it is a high honor and it should not be the end of the journey but more the beginning. Alyssa Romano was presented with the Joint Senate/Assembly Resolution recognizing the achievement of her Gold Award. Felter then read the Proclamation congratulating Alyssa on obtaining her Gold Award and presented her with a Township key. Merz presented Alyssa with a Township pin and pen and then read the Proclamation recognizing Alyssa for achieving this honor. Alyssa explained her Gold Award Project and thanked her advisors, teachers and family.

Bucco commented that it is with great pleasure that he presents this Joint Senate/Assembly Resolution recognizing Stephanie Nadler on the achievement of her Gold Award. Felter then read the Proclamation congratulating Stephanie on obtaining her Gold Award and presented her with a Township key. Merz presented Stephanie with a Township pin and pen and then read the Proclamation recognizing Stephanie for achieving this honor. Stephanie explained her Gold Award Project and thanked her advisors, teachers and family.

Assemblyman Bucco said he would like to send the congratulations of his father, Senator Bucco, and his colleague, Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll, to everyone. Yocum said that he would like to thank the families of the Gold Award recipients. Yocum said that he does not see all the family members of the Council, Administration and Mayor Felter all in one room very often and he would like to express his thanks to every family member for their support because nothing could be accomplished without their support.

Recess

The Council adjourned for recess at 8:01 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

December 15, 2010 Regular Meeting Sanchelli Absent

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Not Voting
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Presentation by Shawn Hopkins, Tax Assessor

Hopkins presented the Council with a check in the amount of \$1000.00 collected from the sale of the software, Assessor's Compass, created in collaboration with Keith Wilcox. Hopkins explained that the software was debuted in July at the Assessors' Association and since then he has done 7 presentations at 7 different County Tax Boards. Hopkins said that when he does the presentations he makes two statements; the first is that regional assessment will not work and that local assessors are needed with local competence in the markets. The second statement is that he does not have a personal financial vested interest in the software. Jefferson Township is, however, a business partner along with Wilcox and the Township is being reimbursed for each license that is being sold to recoup development costs.

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Keith Wilcox explained that it is their understanding that this software has the potential to help every municipal assessor in the State of New Jersey. Wilcox said this is the first reimbursement check which represents the first 20 licenses and there will be more in the future. The goal is to have the local municipal assessors be the most effective that they can be and possess the best tools for the citizens of their community.

Yocum thanked Hopkins for all the thought and work that went into this project along with the tremendous investment of time. Yocum then thanked Wilcox for his generous manner of doing business.

Council Reports

Sanchelli reported that he and Dunham attended a seminar at the Municipal Building on going green with electrical energy. The company presenting the seminar was Veridian. Sanchelli reported that if a resident would like to switch electric generation suppliers, a 20 percent discount is available. Sanchelli asked that this be placed on a future agenda for the Township.

Birmingham commented that some towns are looking to put together electrical power purchasing co-ops to show a base so they can bid out to the suppliers. Birmingham said that the town pays the highest rate right now with JCP&L and there are better opportunities to save money.

Leach said that the Township has joined the Somerset and Middlesex County Co-Ops. Once the DCA approves the contracts, there are Electrical Purchase Contracts in those Co-Ops which will be open to the Township. Leach said he spoke to the Board of Education and they already belong to Co-Ops to purchase their electricity. Leach said he has been investigating various electrical suppliers and as soon as the Co-Ops are approved the town will be moving toward that type of purchase.

Dunham commented that at the seminar, they were advised that Veridian would send a monthly rebate to the non-profit of the customer's choice. Leach said he would like to investigate this further. Dunham said that a member of a local organization was present and suggested that all the organizations' members could designate the rebate to go to the First Aid Squad. Dunham commented that by 2020, the Federal Government is going to require 20 percent green. Yocum asked that this item be placed on the January 19 Agenda.

Sanchelli complimented the DPW on the snow removal.

Merz said she was pleasantly surprised on Monday to receive an email from a Jefferson resident complimenting the roadways in Jefferson after the storm. Merz then complimented Mangold on his consistent updates during every weather event.

Merz thanked the local media for the coverage of local government and events. Merz said that she is very happy about the transparency and availability of information to the citizens of the Township.

Dunham thanked the Administrator for clarifying the storm information. Dunham said he wished to thank Elam and the DPW. Dunham said he would also like to thank Mangold, the Administration and all those who spent their time planning for the storm.

Birmingham said he would like to congratulate the 3 Councilmembers and the Mayor. Birmingham thanked Hopkins for his efforts and for the extra money for the licensing fees. Birmingham said that the Township has seen so many seamless transitions in many departments which are a positive testament to the Administration.

Birmingham said he would like to mention the e-waste and the new law which makes it unlawful for the haulers to collect electronic equipment. Leach commented that a press release has been prepared and it will be on the Township website.

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Yocum said he would also like to thank the DPW and OEM. Yocum commented that every time he has come upon an emergency situation, the first face he sees at the scene is someone from OEM and it is usually Mangold. Yocum said it is a huge benefit to the Township to have such a well organized, dedicated group of people.

Yocum complimented the media for reporting without embellishment. Yocum said he hopes to continue the positive, open relationship.

Dunham reported that during the last storm a portion of the Oak Ridge/Milton Section of the town lost electric. JCP&L was working on the situation, however, Mangold stayed on the utility making sure that the work was completed and the power restored.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

Felter said he would like to go over the facts regarding the Garbage Contract. The Contract was publicly bid and the papers are open for inspection to anyone who would like to see them. Felter stated that Blue Diamond had the contract from 2005 to 2009 and for twice weekly pick up and once a week recycling with a price of \$2,040,000 per year. Waste Management received the contract in 2010 for \$1,871,736. The bid that was just awarded was for 5 years at \$1,844,000. Felter said if the town had gone to Waste Management with twice a week pick up and every other week recycling, it would save \$5.92 per household per year or once weekly garbage and every other week recycling the savings would have been \$19.42 per household per year. Service would have been cut in half and the savings would have been 8.7 percent. Felter said the town has a great program for the garbage and recycling and the cost is about \$200 a year for the average household. Felter said he will be happy to go over the numbers with anyone who would like to see them.

Leach reported that today, he went with the Mayor, Elam, Tuttle and Ed Haack to a meeting with the DEP regarding the Meredith Court water tank. Leach advised that an acceptable plan was reached and the requested information was forwarded this afternoon. Leach said additional land has to be encumbered for the water tank.

Leach advised that a Press Release has gone out and there will also be information on the website regarding the e-waste. Materials can be taken to Best Buy or the County MUA at the present time. In the future, the town may be placing a trailer at the Recycling Center for the collection of e-waste. Birmingham suggested checking with Riverdale because they have been providing this service for a number of years.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

Yocum opened the meeting up to the public for questions of comments and Larry LaSala of Robin Drive came forward. LaSala said he would like to speak about the storm on the 27th and the frequent loss of electrical power in the Milton section of town. LaSala said that he spoke to one of the JCP&L Supervisors who informed him that the grid that the Milton section is running on is overloaded. LaSala said they have short power outages once or twice a month. LaSala asked the Council and Administration to contact JCP&L to find out what is going on and what can be done to rectify the situation. Yocum asked the Administration to send a letter to JCP&L.

Yocum closed the public portion of the meeting.

Resolutions

Resolution #11-1: Temporary Budget for 2011

(5-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

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Resolution #11-2: Appropriation Transfer for 2010 (6-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-3: Approval of Bills (6-B)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-4: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda (6-C)

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-5: Authorize Professional Services Contracts with Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva, Auditor; Hawkins, Delafield & Wood LLP, Bond Counsel; and New Horizons Forestry, Inc., Forester, all for period ending December 31, 2011 (6-D)

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-6: Executive Session – Pending Litigation, Jefferson Township v. State of New Jersey, Tax Ratio Issue (6-E)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

Yocum opened the meeting up to the public for questions and comments and Art Bonito of Jefferson Highlights came forward and said he would like to thank the Council for all the support over the years. Bonito said the studio is being rebuilt with new digital equipment. Bonito announced that more Council meetings will be taped for airing on Jefferson Highlights.

Yocum closed the public portion of the meeting.

Recess

The Council adjourned into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 9:47 p.m.

Adjournment at 9:48 p.m.

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
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Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Dated: January 5, 2011

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President