

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING BARNEGAT LIGHT MARCH 15, 2011

THE SPECIAL MEETING of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Larson at 1:00PM at the Borough Hall, on 10 East 7th Street. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act by posting a copy of the notice of this meeting on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall on March 9, 2011 and by mailing a copy of the notice to the Beach Haven Times and Asbury Park Press, newspapers designated by Mayor and Council on January 7, 2011, to receive such notice, and by filing a copy of the notice with the Borough Clerk on March 9, 2011.

ROLL CALL: SPARK, MIKULETZKY, SHARPLESS, REYNOLDS, BOSSI, WARR
ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: GAIL WETMORE, MAYOR LARSON, JAIMIE WIRKOWSKI, KATHLEEN FLANAGAN, EDWARD SULECKI

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE CLERK stated the minutes of the meeting are being recorded and will be on file in the office of the clerk.

Councilman Warr turned the meeting over to Kat Flanagan, CFO. She said it is brief. What you have in front of you has been sent to Bill Antonides for review. Brian Logan made a few changes. The Assessors O and E went up as discussed. It is done on a no increase in taxes. Mike asked the first question - how much surplus do we have. \$850,000. His question is why did we raise the taxes last year. We generated a lot of money by raising the taxes last year. He said we didn't have to do that. He mentioned the \$150,000 that we moved back from the capital improvement fund. Next he asked about Misc. Revenues: Why are there glowing differences. He questioned the recycling grant we got last year. We did not get that one before. He is trying to understand. He asked many questions that he needs to know. He asked about reserve for retirement of debt. He questioned general capital surplus. We can assume 98% of the bills have been paid Mike Said. He questioned engineering. He thinks we have more than we need to put in the budget based on the reserves. He said he is not pointing the finger at anybody. He said maybe we are not tightening our belt. Kat said if it is at all possible Bill will come in with no tax increase. Mike said we are not going to settle this thing today - this is a workshop. There are things in this day and age that we may need to tighten up on. He questioned the Finance Office figure. Kat explained you replaced an employee who made \$70 some thousand dollars and you have 2 others and one is not getting healthcare. He questioned workers Comp figures. He didn't understand the amounts for the volunteer fire company. We show a reserve because we bought an ATV for them. Mayor said no increase sounds good to him. Dottie questioned the figure for lifeguard salaries. Kat felt it was a good number. Dottie said Don is having one less guard and under O and E Don has some other cuts. Kat explained that things can not be to the penny. She does not want to over expend a line item. Dave asked about a combined board. Kirk said pick someone you want to throw off. Harvey Cedars didn't have enough people who wanted to serve. Dottie said we have discussed paying the secretary for attending meetings only. Mike said hire someone from the town, anybody can be a clerk. Gail said that's nice Mike. Kirk asked about Health Insurance. Mike said we can discuss that on a sidebar - we don't have to talk about that at the table. He changed the subject and told council how he can save \$3400.00 a year by eliminating certain things with the phone system. Everything is on the table. He mentioned his social security and that his combined income has gone down 2 thirds. Mike said why can't there be a reduction in taxes. Kat explained why we raised the taxes a penny last year. George said you have to take into consideration there are things that can come up. Things we do not anticipate. Dave said we are under a 2% cap. Inflation is not. Kat said assessments went up this year. Kat said Joan is very good at collecting taxes - Mike

said but that's our history. George said nobody here is in favor of raising taxes. What we do here is only going to affect 30% - the rest is going out of town.

Kat said she needs everyone to look at the budget for their department and let her know if that is the number you want or not. We will discuss and so that we can be sure we have enough money to get through the end of the year. George asked if she had real concrete figures. Dave asked why we did not increase health insurance. She and Brian are disagreeing on the figure and they have gone to Bill for his thoughts. We have less employees who are collecting benefits. She mentioned the dentist issue. Mike said there is much more out of pocket for the employees. Mike said if people are being hurt he is looking to get back into the original plan for a couple more thousand dollars a year. Kat said what if the council covered the difference. It will be looked into. George mentioned an idea he had of using unpaid sick days as payment for that. Mayor said our employees are capped on what they can leave with at \$15,000.00. The state employee pays half for their dental. Mike was under the impression we are in a state plan. The Delta contract ends July 1st. Mike said we just saved \$3400.00 on the phone. George said what do we want to do? Dave asked about the Computer training. Mike questioned the total buy out days and were they split in the budget. They are. Mayor mentioned the Personnel Policy. Mike said we should adopt it. We don't have it to adopt. Gail will call Terry tomorrow. Dottie wants to be prepared if Bill comes in and wants to increase taxes. Kat said we need to introduce soon. Mayor asked what about raises. Winnie got his raise. Mike said the union took a big hit with medical expenses. Dottie said people are not getting raises in the private sector. What is the council giving up was a question from Gail. Mike said he is giving up \$8000.00 on his health insurance. He said he doesn't have to do that. Gail thought he did and said she stands corrected. Mike wants a side bar conversation after this meeting. Mike said we are looking at the Cadillac of Medicare Plans. Mike went back to the Dental Plan and asked who has had problems. Kat said she has to play devils advocate. In two years your employees put out 3% of their salary. If you can still come in with a 0 increase in taxes please consider a raise for your employees. These women and men are your permanent employees. Mike claimed that the office employees got what the union. Mike - consider the taxpayers who pay their bills. Gail said to Mike that he is very lucky to have the caliber of people who work here. They care about the taxpayers. She meant both men and women who work here. What is the downside if it doesn't happen was Mike's question. Gail said nobody expects a 5% raise, or a 4 or even a 3 when Mike mentioned the days of 5% raises. Mike mentions social security again. Mike said there is still a benefit of being a public employee with a job. Mayor said years ago we couldn't get people to want to work here. Dottie said maybe we will do something. Mike said even 2% is giving away the fort. Jaime said the private sector is different. Mayor asked Mike about the cell phones and Mike said he wants to talk about that after the meeting. Kat asked about the lifeguard truck. Mike said the guards want a 4 wheel that is not full size. Ed said he contacted Warnock re trucks. Some towns get people to donate. Kat said she will talk to TD Bank. We have tried for years to get banks to donate with no success. Dottie moved to close. The council went back in session so Mike could talk about the cell phones. Dottie asked if things were moving along on the property. Mayor briefly explained what the neighbor to the marina plans to do. It would involve Land Use Money. Gail said she doesn't think they will be back at this months meeting.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, ON A MOTION BY BOSSI THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

APPROVED: _____

**GAIL J. WETMORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

