

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2013**

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Mayor Mignogna, Mr. DiNatale, Mr. Friedman, Mrs. Ayes,
Mr. Spellman, Township Administrator; Mr. Long, Township Solicitor;
Mr. Bibbs, Township Engineer; Ms. Irick, Remington & Vernick;
Mr. Ciminera, Chief Financial Officer

ABSENT

Mr. Platt

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Township Solicitor stated “this meeting is being held in compliance with the requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act” and has been duly noticed and published in the Courier Post Newspaper

PROCLAMATION: Abilities Awareness Week

Mayor Mignogna presented a proclamation to members of the SPEAK Organization declaring the week of April 13-20 as Abilities Awareness Week

COMMENDATION: Sgt. Andrew Park

Mayor Mignogna presented a commendation to Voorhees resident Sgt. Andrew Park for his service in the United States Army in Iraq and Afghanistan

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE

AMENDING CHAPTER 130 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES ENTITLED “GENERAL OFFENSES” SMOKING PROHIBITED ON TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. FRIEDMAN
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 97-13 AUTHORIZATION TO READ THE 2013 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

2013 VOORHEES TOWNSHIP BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING – No One Spoke

MOTION TO CLOSE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 98-13 ADOPTION OF 2013 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Mr. Friedman stated that he would be voting “no” on the budget this evening. Although he is generally in agreement with the budget this year, he still has concerns that committee is overpaying professional contracts when other equally qualified, less expensive options are left on the bench.

Ms. Ayes stated that this had been previously discussed, specifically in regard to solicitor fees, where it was brought forth that the information from other towns provided by Mr. Friedman was considered not accurate.

A discussion ensued regarding when the information was provided by Mr. Friedman and whether there had been a meeting where the RFPs were reviewed by the group as a whole. There was disagreement between Mr. Friedman and other members of Committee as to the accuracy of the information from other towns and whether there had been an opportunity to review the RFP's in a meeting

Mr. Friedman also stated that what other towns do should not be the determining factor in what Voorhees does. He would rather that Voorhees become a "trailblazer" and look to reduce their own costs.

Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Friedman engaged in a discussion regarding Mr. Friedman's reasons for voting no and Mr. Friedman's assertions that other professional firms are less expensive, citing the 2013 bond counsel as an example.

Mayor Mignogna stated that there must be a balance between cost and quality of work, which he feels the Committee takes into consideration, and that since the appointments have been made for this year, it would be best to have/continue this discussion when the new RFP's are brought in for next year's appointments.

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. DiNATALE			
SECONDED:	MRS. AYES			
ROLL CALL:	MAYOR MIGNOGNA	Y	MR. PLATT	ABSENT
	MR. DiNATALE	Y	MRS. AYES	Y
	MR. FRIEDMAN	N		

PUBLIC PORTION FOR ALL OTHER RESOLUTIONS ONLY - No One Spoke

MOTION TO CLOSE
THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. FRIEDMAN
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 99-13 ACCEPTANCE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY
FOR MORI PROPERTIES LLC; BLOCK 225; LOT 6

MOTION TO APPROVE: MRS. AYES
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 100-13 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONSIGNMENT
TICKET AGREEMENTS WITH CLEMENTON
AMUSEMENT PARK & MOREY'S PIERS, WILDWOOD

MOTION TO APPROVE: MRS. AYES
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 101-13 TAX COLLECTOR ADJUSTMENTS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MRS. AYES
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 102-13 APPROVAL OF A TWA PERMIT APPLICATION FOR
HIGHPOINT II, BLOCK 305; LOTS 1, 3-9 & 12

MOTION TO APPROVE: MRS. AYES
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 103-13 AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF
DIESEL FUEL

MOTION TO APPROVE: MRS. AYES
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 104-13 ACCEPTANCE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY
FOR BLOCK 46; LOT 24 – HEDWIG PLACE

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. FRIEDMAN
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 105-13 CONFIRMING THE SALE OF LANDS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS FOR BLOCK 252,
LOT 15

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

RESOLUTION NO. 106-13 TAX ASSESSOR – SENIOR/VET RESOLUTIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. FRIEDMAN
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2013
BILLS POSTED FOR MARCH 25, 2013
BILLS POSTED FOR APRIL 8, 2013
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2013
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2013
COURT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2013
REGISTRAR'S REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2013 & FEBRUARY 2013

MOTION TO APPROVE

ALL OF THE ABOVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE

Mr. DiNatale stated that for two years there has been a Budget Advisory Committee to help review the budget. For the second year, there really have been no material comments made by the BAC on any areas that need to be worked on or expenditures to be reduced. There were a few recommendations – and he wants to thank those who came so that they could see what committee goes through each year - but wants the residents to understand that there were no material recommendations made to change the budget.

Mayor Mignogna echoed Mr. DiNatale's comments.

Mr. Friedman stated that he takes issue with the comment that there were no "material" recommendations made stating that it denigrates those who took the time to participate. In contrast, he believes there were material comments and he also thanked those who attended and gave of their time. Members of the committee spoke of revenue resources, provided ideas such as an oversized vehicle parking lot that could be rented and bring in revenue to the township and other areas of expertise where costs could be cut such as computer services.

Mr. DiNatale stated that 'yes' those were great ideas, but his definition of "material" is something that can really save the taxpayers money. He wanted to address this because there are times, he feels, when it is perceived that Committee does not do enough to keep costs down and he wants the public to understand that an independent review board only came up with the ideas that were mentioned and this validates what Committee is doing.

Mr. Friedman stated that he believes it is important to be proactive and bring in people who may have skill sets that exceed that of Committee to find ways to save additional dollars.

Mr. Friedman stated that SPEAK will hold their annual 5K race on Saturday and invited everyone to come out and support the organization.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

**WILLIAM ROBBINS
ROLLINGWOOD DRIVE**

Mr. Robbins stated that he wanted to reiterate Mr. Friedman's comments regarding the budget committee and suggested that the township utilize computer phones.

Mr. Robbins also stated that committee should, each year, build the budget up from zero.

Mayor Mignogna stated that each line item was reviewed very carefully.

Discussion ensued about pending legislation that would require schools and counties to repay their portion of taxes when tax appeals are successful. Mr. Robbins stated that some municipalities were holding the adoption of their budget so that they could receive these funds.

Mayor Mignogna noted that should the legislation pass, Voorhees would benefit also.

No further comments from the public.

MOTION TO CLOSE

THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. FRIEDMAN

SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 MR. PLATT

ADJOURNMENT