

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2012**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Mignogna, Mr. DiNatale, Mr. Platt, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Lovallo, Mr. Spellman, Township Administrator; Mr. Long, Township Solicitor; Mr. Bibbs, Township Engineer

**FLAG SALUTE**

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Solicitor stated for the record that this meeting is held in compliance with the requirement of the "Open Public Meetings Act" and has been duly noticed and published as required by law.

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 208-12**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND ADOPTING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE SCHEDULE OF FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES**

MOTION TO CLOSE		MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO	
THE PUBLIC PORTION:	MR. LOVALLO	SECONDED:	MR. PLATT
SECONDED:	MR. DiNATALE	ROLL CALL:	MR. FRIEDMAN Y MR. PLATT Y
AYES:	ALL		MR. DiNATALE Y MR. LOVALLO Y
NAYS:	NONE		MAYOR MIGNOGNA Y

**PUBLIC PORTION FOR RESOLUTIONS ONLY - No One Spoke**

MOTION TO CLOSE	
THE PUBLIC PORTION:	MR. PLATT
SECONDED:	MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 88-12** APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. LOVALLO
SECONDED:	MR. PLATT
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 89-12** APPOINTING GARY KAHN AS SCHOOL TRAFFIC GUARD

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. LOVALLO
SECONDED:	MR. PLATT
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 90-12** RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RETIREMENTS  
Walt Tyldesley/Joseph Farley

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. LOVALLO
SECONDED:	MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 91-12**                      APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT ATTORNEYS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 92-12**                      TAX COLLECTOR

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 93-12**                      ACCEPTANCE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY  
AND DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT FOR  
BRANDYWINE REALTY, BLOCK 222; LOT 19

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 94-12**                      ACCEPTANCE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY  
FOR ROSS STORES; BLOCK 160; LOT 1

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 95-12**                      APPOINTMENT OF KRISTINA RIEDERS AS A PART-  
TIME CLERK IN POLICE RECORDS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-12**                      AUTHORIZATION TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION  
FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF A NATURAL  
RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-12** EXECUTIVE SESSION  
**Personnel**  
**Police Contract**  
**Land Sale Negotiations**

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-12** AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF ONE HOTEL LIQUOR  
LICENSE TO THE HIGHEST QUALIFIED BIDDER  
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC SALE

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
BILLS POSTED FOR MARCH 12, 2012  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2012  
TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2012

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ALL OF THE ABOVE: MR. LOVALLO  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

**COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE**

Mayor Mignogna announced that the planning board will hold a special workshop during its meeting of March 28, 2012 commencing at 7:30 PM in the courtroom of the Municipal Building to discuss the 2012 Master Plan Re-examination. Discussion will include property owners' requests for zone changes

Mr. Friedman stated that the first meeting of the citizens' budget advisory committee had taken place. Approximately 16 – 17 residents attended and good ideas were given. The next meeting will be March 14, 2012 at 6 PM in the town hall.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**MR. BILL ROBBINS**  
**31 ROLLINGWOOD DRIVE**  
**VOORHEES, NJ**

Mr. Robbins stated for the record that he wanted to retract and apologize for comments he made about Mr. DiNatale at the meeting of February 27, 2012. Mr. Robbins stated that he had been given some false information and he could not substantiate what he said.

Mr. Robbins stated that he would like to move on as there are a lot of things to look at in the 2012 budget that is coming up. Budgets are anticipated revenue, it is not actual revenue. What needs to be looked at is the biggest portion of our budget and the portion of the budget that is consuming the most of the money, unfortunately, is our police department.

He stated that he spoke to Howard Long (Township Solicitor) a few weeks ago and told him that he (Mr. Robbins) would be coming to town hall to present some good ways to reduce the cost of police work in this township.

Mr. Robbins stated that Gloucester Township, which is much bigger than Voorhees and controls a much bigger area, has come up with a very unique way of handling motor vehicle infractions. Instead of having a police officer issue a summons out of a paper book, they have gone to electronic hand devices. It eliminates errors and after entering the information, the summons is transmitted electronically directly to the court clerk. "Great way to save money."

Mr. Robbins also made the following statements.

It is not necessary to have police officers driving around in big trucks. With the price of gasoline today, police officers should not be allowed to ride around in trucks and have them sit and idle for hours.

Another thing is to put a car along the side of the road and fill it with cameras with a sign that informs motorists the speed limit is enforced by photos.

The biggest thing is that we cannot have police officers who have only been on the job 8/9 years making \$109,000 a year. That's crazy. Voorhees is going to become a ghost town. I can tell you, I am not going to stay here and pay them \$109,000 a year. It's ridiculous.

What we have to do is re-open their contracts and then look at their salaries and readjust them. Let me tell you something, police officers in Philadelphia are not making \$109,000 a year and their jobs are a hell of a lot more riskier than ever, ever, will happen in this town. I just want to make that known because we can't be paying these guys that kind of money. It's ludicrous.

You know what happened in Medford. They had 49 police officers in 2009. They are now down to 27 and several of them are going to be taking pay cuts. If they don't like the pay cut, they can look for another job. I will tell you, if you put that in there, there will be many other people who will be more than happy to come here. I am saying you can't pay these kinds of salaries. We are going to go broke. That's what is happening, not only in Medford, but in many places. By the time you get done paying longevity, sick, this & that and everything else, they are not protecting us; they are looting us. Looting us of our wallets by our taxes being so high. That's one of the factors that Mario was trying to stand up about, and he personally told me about it, and I think we have to address this. As elected officials in this township, YOU people make these decisions – not the department heads. Doesn't matter if it is the Chief of Police. He can have badges hanging down to his feet; it doesn't matter. The people that are making the decisions are the elected people. You tell them what to do and if they don't like it, they can take a pay cut.

**MR. DiNATALE** - I agree

**MR. SPELLMAN**

We have looked at the e-ticketing. It is expensive capital. We are switching over to the 700 mega watt series with the county next year. At that point, there will be new technology and then we can do e-ticketing. It is still in its infancy; there are still a lot of bugs to work out.

**MR. ROBBINS**

Gloucester Township just installed a new piece of equipment in their police cars that allows them to scan license plates.

**MR. SPELLMAN**

Voorhees has had that for two years. In addition, we have bought some Tahoe vehicles for the police in the last two years. With the snowstorm two years ago, we realized that we need four-wheel drive vehicles.

**MR. ROBBINS**

I agree, but if there is no snow, we don't need them driving around on a day like today.

**MR. SPELLMAN**

They put the dogs in those vehicles and when we have an emergency, we need the four-wheel drive vehicles.

**MR. ROBBINS**

I passed the guy today over here by the post office. There was no dog in the car. It had no insignia that it was a K-9 officer but I can tell you, he did not have to be driving that vehicle today.

**MR. SPELLMAN**

We have also explored the red light cameras. We must have approval from the state to use them. We have put the application in to the state and we are waiting for them. As I understand it, the State is holding all of them across the state until they work out some of the bugs as far as ticket reimbursement.

**MR. ROBBINS**

But we must open the contracts. There is no way in hell we can pay these salaries. That's one of the reasons I think, and that you even mentioned to me before, that Gibbsboro does not want to share any services with us, simply because of the difference in the salaries.

**MR. LONG, TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR**

That is a point very well taken. It's also a matter of contracts in terms of – I think if Committee could say to you, hey, we are trying that, and give you a little bit of an explanation .... I think they are hesitant to say that because of the sensitive nature of the negotiations, but let me just say this to you, we hear you and we agree with you vis a vis the opening of the contract and we are moving.

**MR. ROBBINS**

The contracts are written, but nothing is written in stone. I always say from a sales standpoint, half a loaf is better than none. I can tell you that if these guys take a cut, they either stay in Voorhees Township on the police department or they look for another job. We are not going to pay them that salary and I can guarantee you that if they go over to Evesham, Berlin or any of these towns around here, they would be lucky if they got a job, let alone take any salary. Why should we be paying those kinds of salaries.

The only other township that I can think of that was paying very high money, and that has come to an end, is Princeton Boro. Well, as of January 1 2013, a major thing is going to happen up there. Princeton Township and Princeton Boro is going to be just Princeton. The police departments in both communities are going to be reorganized, people are going to retire or they are going to be out the door, or they are going to take a pay cut.

I was talking to a guy in Northfield. Northfield and Linwood have one Chief of Police. They have eliminated the position of the Chief of Northfield upon his retirement and combined it with Linwood. So there is a good thought to think about, because we can't be paying these salaries. We are going to go broke. And what happens is the poor people left in this township are going to be stuck paying their retirements. It's just out of context.

There being no further input from the public,

MOTION TO CLOSE

THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. LOVALLO

SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**