

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2015**

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL Mayor Mignogna, Mr. Friedman, Mr. DiNatale, Mr. Platt, Mrs. Ayes, Lawrence Spellman, Township Administrator; Howard Long, Township Solicitor; Sara Irick, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Louis Bordi, Police Chief

SUNSHINE STATEMENT Mr. Long stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" and has been duly noticed and published as required in the Courier Post and Inquirer Newspapers.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING "EARTH HOUR"

Comment from Mayor - Our First matter this evening is a proclamation recognizing Earth Hour. This event is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households, and businesses to turn off their non- essential lights for one hour from 8:30 – 9:30 pm on last Saturday in March, March 28th as a symbol as their commitment to our planet.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-15 AUTHORIZATION TO READ THE 2015 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY

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

2015 VOORHEES TOWNSHIP BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING

COMMENT FROM TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR – LARRY SPELLMAN

The 2015 Voorhees Township municipal budget is \$27,917,000. The budget is comprised of total expenses of \$25,498,700 and \$2,418,300 in the budget as a reserve for uncollected taxes. The total amount to be raised by taxation is \$18,718,000. This budget is \$719,000 under the 2% State levy cap, and \$1,541,000 under the State budget cap. The Open Space tax is unchanged at 2.0 cents. The local tax rate is unchanged at 58.7 cents. The average taxpayer will pay \$1,498 in 2015 or \$125 per month for municipal services, the same amount as in 2014.

MOTION TO CLOSE: MR. PLATT AYES: ALL
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 86-15 AMENDMENT TO THE 2015 BUDGET

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT ROLL CALL: MR. FRIEDMAN Y MR. PLATT
Y
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN MR. DiNATALE Y MRS. AYES
Y
AYES: ALL MAYOR MIGNOGNA Y
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 87-15 ADOPTION OF 2015 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT ROLL CALL: MR. FRIEDMAN Y MR.
PLATT Y
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN MR. DiNATALE MRS.
AYES Y
AYES ALL MAYOR MIGNOGNA Y
NAYS: NONE

COMMENTS

MAYOR MIGNOGNA

I would first like to say this township committee has worked hard to stabilize taxes through controlling spending, raising tax revenue in our shared services program and to get us to the point of having no local tax increase this year.

MR. DiNATALE

I would like to second that. I think it's, as Mr. Spellman, our township manager laid out, our expenditures and when you're looking at the kind of budget that we manage here is close to almost 28,000,000.00

that's a fairly sizeable budget and for basically our taxpayers to be at a flat tax rate for the municipal portion of it and I know that sometimes is hard for the general public to understand the difference between that, we are only responsible for about 14 -15% of the total spent so, That's a job well done Larry and Dean.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR RESOLUTIONS ONLY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 88-15 AUTHORIZING A LIEN TO BE PLACED ON
BLOCK 218.20, LOT 11

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

RESOLUTION NO. 89-15 CANCELING OUTSTANDING CHECKS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 90-15 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS FOR A PLANNING CONSULTANT
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS FOR THE
TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES

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

RESOLUTION NO. 91-15 AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR A PROPERTY BROKER

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

RESOLUTION NO. 92-15 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPECIAL COUNSEL
ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS TO FILE
DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT ACTION

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

COMMENTS FROM HOWARD LONG
Mayor, if I may add, I want to indicate that on 92-15 that the authorization to file an action for declaratory judgment with the court is something that we've been ordered to do and have the availability to do by the New Jersey supreme court based upon a recent decision that they rendered on March 10 of this year . Because of our positioning having applied for our round three certification and always have been COA

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

RESOLUTION NO. 99-15

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FUNDING YEAR 37 (2015-2016 \$49,800.00)

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

MINUTES FROM MARCH 9, 2015
BILLS POSTED FOR MARCH 23, 2015
COURT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015
REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015

MOTION TO APPROVE
ALL OF THE ABOVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYS: NONE

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE –

MAYOR MIGNONA

I would like to remind everybody that the Voorhees Rotary Clubs Annual Spring Egg Hunt will be this Saturday, March 28th at 10:30 am at Lions Lake Park.

MRS. AYES

I have a comment, it has come to our attention that the county, is that correct Mr. Long, has asked us to move all our polling places out of the schools, actually not asked, mandated that we do so. So, members of this committee and our solicitor have worked very diligently to find alternative locations, however, I am dismayed at this, I think and feel that this is going to cause a lot of confusion and mayhem and people are going to show up at the wrong polling place and be told to go somewhere else and I don't think it is very transparent and as a member of this township and this county I don't appreciate it. I will be calling the local newspapers, letting our board of elections know how I feel about it, and I hope all of you or anyone who is watching this will do the same and let them know that it's not ok to just quietly change the polling places that have been in those institutions, forever.

MR. FRIEDMAN

I would concur, and I think it is a bi-partisan issue committee woman agree and I agree whole heartily, I think, and I'm not sure what the impitiss is but I think it is unnecessary and it does confuse people and you want as many people voting as easily as possible. I think it affects mostly actually our elderly folks who may not be up on all the changes. So, I'm not sure what the reason is but I am not happy with it either.

MRS. AYES

And to your point about not knowing what the impitice is, the county really should have included us in the decision that affects so many of our citizens here.

MR. LONG

Our clerk can only make a recommendation, and that recommendation is due on April 1st and is authorized at our committee meeting, work meeting last week. I did reach out to the board of elections and had some discussions but have been advised that they have already voted to approve certain polling place changes. I don't know how they can do that without getting a recommendation that's supposed to be in by April 1st which has not been submitted by our clerk yet. Also, what is troubling, is the fact that the statute which ultimately gives the responsibility to sighting the polling place to the board of elections, and indicates that there should be a preference for schools and public buildings. So frankly, I don't see how they get around that, I think their concern is safety, and we are all concerned about that, but at the

moment only three of the five schools in our community are being affected. So are we concerned about the safety in three schools but not the other two? The other thing, as you know our chief has implemented the cops in schools program and we have security in the schools, which they can certainly react on election day and be in a position that provide added security and be placed in a location that guarantees that the public doesn't integrate into the building in any fashion and that's separate. We make sure that on a daily basis now and we can certainly do that on Election Day. So, I am very perplexed by their unwillingness to bend on this issue, but they took a very ridged stand when I reached out to them.

MRS. AYES

So, Mr. Long can you let the citizens know who they can get in touch with or should they reach out to, the county, the board of elections, to both, who would it be?

MR. LONG

The board of elections, I can put, are you looking for the number?

Mr. DiNATALE

You can put it on the screen

MRS. AYES

I'm not looking for a number maybe the board of elections, or website or the county where or website where to direct people

MR. LONG

You go to the county website and the board of election pops right up. I don't have the number.

MRS. AYES

Thank you

MR. PLATT

We have the pros since finding out that this was voted on even before the April 1st date. We have a proposal to basically take care of all the schools, that we will submit to them on Wednesday and we hope that they will look at it and listen to it, because, like Mr. Long said their concern really is for safety in the schools, you can't have some schools have elections and some schools not. We have a plan that can take care of all the schools, they just have to be willing to be flexible enough to understand it provides the safety that they are asking us to provide.

MR. LONG

I was told that they wouldn't go back, but all the schools should be treated equally and that all the polling places should come out of all the schools, they would be willing to listen to us. So Committeemen Deputy Mayor, Mr. Platt and myself and Ms. Ober met about 7:00 tonight and went over some various alternatives that might work and we'll try and communicate those alternatives. I just don't think you can have three schools and not have five.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NO ONE SPOKE

MOTION TO CLOSE

THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. PLATT

SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT