

MINUTES  
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 10, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Fisher at 7:00 p.m.  
SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE read by Mayor Fisher.  
FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Tibak, Mr. Petersen, Mr. Grover, Mr. Inscho, Mr. Fisher and Ms. Reilly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Inscho with roll call unanimous to enter into executive session to discuss defeated school budget.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Grover with roll call unanimous to enter back into regular session.

Mayor Fisher explained that during Executive Session no official action was taken. Minutes will be made available when deemed no harm to public. He noted that the defeated school budget was discussed but no official action was taken.

RESOLUTION #10-25 – School Budget Reductions – Motion made by Mr. Petersen, seconded by Mr. Inscho with roll call unanimous to adopt Resolution 10-25.

Mayor Fisher then read the above resolution to the public.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Mayor Fisher noted that there will be public discussion on cutting the budget issues only.

John Huff, Liberty Township resident, asked the committee to expand on the reduction issues. Mr. Grover read from the list.

Paula Van Cliff, Liberty Township resident, noted that she wanted to keep the Gate Program for the school.

Dr. Frederiks, Superintendent of Great Meadows Regional noted that his office received the list of cuts that Liberty wishes to make this a.m. He noted that of the \$945,000 one half of that are monies that cannot be cut. It is considered Fund 30 money. He noted that this budget is about 85% personnel. He reported that prior to the budget vote, nineteen positions were cut.

Margo Bartiromo, Liberty Township resident, noted that we owe Hackettstown quite a bit of money.

Michael Craine – Noted that there is a danger of making these cuts and next year we will only be allowed to raise budget by 2.5%.

Al Crisafulli, Liberty Township resident, asked how the committee came up with the \$945,000 cuts and why it is not lower. Mr. Fisher explained that each committee member went thru the budget line item by line item. He noted that if the suggested cuts from the township could not be made, it would be up to the school to make the cuts.

Committeeman Tibak explained that these cuts are only suggestions.

Sue Egan, Liberty Township resident. She noted that the township suggested a \$945,000 cut but X amount cannot be cut – and asked if the township would budge. Mr. Fisher explained that it could be less if certain things can not be cut.

He noted that the township proposed the cuts but the school does not have to follow our direction. The school budget can be cut where they wish.

Jennifer Cassini, School Board President, noted that it was inaccurate that Independence Township did not work on the budget. Mr. Fisher noted that at a meeting last week the Mayor of Independence Township said he was “sitting back to wait”.

Ms. Cassini noted that it was important to keep money in the budget for staff. She noted that they currently have a part time superintendent. There is a sixty day notice when a staff member leaves. If this part time position is vacant they may have to fill it with a full time staff person. Therefore, they need the funding in case this occurs.

Mr. Sullivan, Independence resident, stated that this budget is a million dollars less then last year so how can they justify cutting it by \$945,000. Mr. Fisher noted that they go year by year.

It was asked if there was going to be a joint meeting with the Great Meadows Board of Education, Independence Township and Liberty. Mr. Fished noted that Great Meadows Board of Education did not feel this was necessary.

ADJOURMENT: Motion made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Petersen with roll call unanimous to adjourn said meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willa L. Reilly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator