

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Special Meeting on Monday, March 21, 2011, in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 11:30 AM, with the following present:

**Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Committeeman
Committeeman**

**Menashe P. Miller
Steven Langert
Raymond Coles
Meir Lichtenstein**

Committeeman

Albert Akerman Absent

Municipal Attorney..... Jan L. Wouters, Esq.

Municipal Clerk..... Mary Ann Del Mastro

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, and published in the Asbury Park Press on March 16, 2011.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PRAYER

ROLL CALL

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Miller opened the meeting at 11:32 AM

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 – DEFEATED BUDGET

Mayor Miller opened the meeting to the public.

John Stillwell, 1104 East County Line Road – Commented on the ongoing targeting by the media, and their lack of knowledge. Mr. Stillwell stated the volunteer firefighters who fight fires in Lakewood are also taxpayers in Lakewood, and pay the same taxes. He further commented he hoped these critics are not landlords who cannot manage the care of their properties, and are taxpayers rather than renters, who do not pay taxes.

Baruch Blaustein, 109 Seventh Street – Commented on the good job the Committee is doing and he is proud to see Democracy at work.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Miller closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor Miller asked for a Motion on the following Resolution.

Resolution of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, and State of New Jersey, Fixing and Approving the 2011 Fiscal Year Budget of the Lakewood Township Fire District No. 1

Motion by Committeeman Lichtenstein, second by Committeeman Coles, to approve Resolution No. 2011-109. Deputy Mayor Langert clarified the Motion to correct items numbers 1-3: Item #1 to \$3,442,673; Item #2 to \$300,000; and Item #3 to \$4,142,673. Committeeman Lichtenstein and Committeeman Coles amended their Motion to reflect the changes.

DISCUSSION:

Committeeman Lichtenstein addressed the volunteer firefighters directly, stating that in no way were the negotiations a reflection of the volunteers. They do an excellent job. Volunteer firefighters are essential in keeping taxes down. Though there may have been negative vibes, no one is questioning the dedication and hard work of all of our firefighters. The Township Committee and the communities of Lakewood appreciate and stand behind them. He will be proud to stand beside them. Committeeman Lichtenstein thanked the Mayor for making him a part of the negotiations, along with Deputy Mayor Langert.

Deputy Mayor Langert agreed with Committeeman Lichtenstein’s comments. He further stated the negotiations were both professional, and upfront. Deputy Mayor Langert then read a prepared statement, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Committeeman Coles concurred with the other Committeemen and thanked the Fire Commissioners and the Firefighters for working with the Committee. He discussed how the Department will still get a new fire truck, and whatever improvements are needed, even with the large cuts to the Budget. However, business will be done differently, with Bonding, which Committeeman Coles stated makes sense, as the payments are spread out over time, and is fairer to all taxpayers (present and future). He again expressed his gratitude and hopes they can continue to work together for the better of Lakewood.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Committeeman Coles, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Langert and Mayor Miller.

Resolution No. 2011 - 109 – Adopted.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Committeeman Coles, second by Deputy Mayor Langert, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.