

The Shamong Township Committee held a Town Meeting on the above date at the Municipal Building.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gray at approximately 9:03 a.m.

The Clerk stated please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act in the following manner. Written notice has been mailed to the Burlington County Times and published in the Central Record. Written notice has been posted on the official bulletin board of the Township of Shamong.

Roll Call and)	Mr. Sean Gray	P
Absentees)	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P
Noted)	Mr. Christopher Norman	P
	Mr. Jonathon Shevelew	P

Mayor Gray opened the meeting to the public at which time Mr. Christensen, Superintendent of Indian Mills Schools, asked if the Township Committee would include a line item of \$25,000 for the Indian Mills Schools in case of a catashopic incident, such as, a roof problem, boiler breaking, classification of a child which could cost up to \$100,000 per year. Mr. Christensen stated their surplus has been going down every year and this year they will be using approximately \$310,000 of surplus in their budget because they are \$700,000 above the cap to maintain the services they currently have. This will leave them with a surplus of approximately \$264,000. Mr. Christensen stated they will be cutting some programs and staff. Mr. Christensen reported the School Board has not finalized the budget as yet so he has no figures to share at this time. Mr. Christensen reported that he heard the Governor is going to either have flat funding or decreases for school districts.

The Administrator reported 2,281 acres have been recommended for gypsy moth spraying this year at a cost of approximately \$137,000 to the Township. The Administrator reported last year the township budgeted \$40.00 per acre and this year the State is suggesting we budget \$60.00 per acre for the spraying. The Administrator explained the Committee would have to budget the full \$140,000 for spraying in the 2009 Budget and February 6, 2009 is the deadline for withdrawal from the program. The Administrator stated there have been little to no resident's complaints relative to the 2008 gypsy moth outbreak. The Administrator stated Tabernacle is not sure as to what they are doing but feel spraying may not be necessary, as for Southampton, they may spray again this year.

Mayor Gray opened the meeting to the public at which time Joseph Reinhart stated a lot of the egg masses did not hatch last year and asked will they hatch this year. The Administrator explained it is her understanding only the new egg masses will hatch and after the recount the number dropped by approximately 1,400. Mary Anne Reinhart

asked if the Administrator could request an extension to March 10th when the State is scheduled to release their budget so the Committee would know what the reimbursement, if any, from the State will be. The Administrator explained the State needs to know who is going to participate and how much land is being sprayed with BT in order to go through the bid process for the area to be treated and provide sufficient time to have the BT manufactured. Mrs. King suggested letting the people know that there were other diseases that killed trees last year, such as, the Wasp. Mary Anne Reinhart informed the Committee the County is looking to do something pertaining to gypsy moths but it has not been fully discussed on what they will be doing and she will keep the Committee informed. There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Gray closed the meeting to the public.

The Administrator reported when the 2008 Budget figures were finalized they were \$276,000 less than the 2007 Budget which showed sufficient cuts in the operating budget last year. The 2008 operating budget was also under spent by \$767,000. These savings were do to cutting cost where possible, such as, postponing some equipment purchases, postponing some road repair, retiring staff, less maintenance on the lakes, less professional fees, and limited road projects. Items to be considered in the 2009 budget are funds for STASA, pension payment schedule is pending, Open Space Coordinator salary, training for a replacement for Deputy Clerk at end of year, there will be a savings in building and code office by approximately \$7500 in salary due to the retirement of Mr. McGonigle, and the cost of living adjustment will need to be discussed, buildings and grounds operating expenses were increased by \$500, minimal expense for a cleaning service, parks and lakes no change, war memorial will be updated with minimal increase to provide for updating of monument, savings for streets and roads due to employee retiring, no change in rent control board, 2009 DOT grant is \$180,000 which will be used for Old Indian Mills Road, Phase I, other road projects would be Wheatsheaf Road and Manitoba Trail, need monies for a grader and possibly a mower, tax and assessor's office \$500 increase, zoning officer reduced by \$500, fire company requested \$25,000 towards purchase of truck, health insurance is increasing at 3.7%, 5.9% increase for dental, received a local finance notice showing the cola for 2009 at a rate of 6.5%, budget reflects a 4% cost of living increase, and the 2009 projected budget is at 2.15% higher than the 2008 budget. This budget includes the \$140,000 for gypsy moth spraying. Committeeman Shevelew recommended the township not defer payments into the pension plan because it would only affect the budget at a later time. The Administrator stated she included the full pension expense figure in preparing the budget. Mayor Gray explained he attended the 2009 Mayor's Legislative Day with Governor Corzine and some key discussions were on COIA, Municipal Aid, and deferred payments on the pension. He feels the Committee will be facing those same issues this year when preparing the budget.

Mayor Gray opened the meeting to the public at which time Joseph Reinhart reported he sent a letter to the Committee requesting \$25,000 this year towards the purchase of a new fire truck. Mr. Reinhart explained the fire company was not suppose to pay anything on the new truck until it was delivered but when the man presented a contract, which included the finance company's requirements, it stated in order to be eligible for a 3 ½%

interest rate on a loan they would have to go through a lot of government regulations that they did not agree with so they told them they were not interested. Mr. Reinhart explained they did go to the local bank, Beneficial, and were able to secure a \$300,000 loan at 5% but had to purchase the truck now instead of waiting until 2010. Their first loan payment is due January 2009 at a cost of \$56,000 per year. This is why they are asking for \$25,000 this year and \$50,000 for the next 5 years and finishing with \$25,000 the last year. Committeeman Shevelew stated before the Committee makes a decision they would like to see a financial statement from the fire company since the last one was dated 2001. Mr. Reinhart said he would take that request back to the executive board. Mary Anne Reinhart said she concurred with their decision to pay the pension fund and asked the Administrator if that \$42,000 was all the cost and she confirmed it was. Mary Anne Reinhart stated she feels the Committee should require all departments to submit documentation of their budget and financial statements when asking the Committee for funding. The Administrator asked Mr. Reinhart for the figures on the LOSAP program and he stated she will have them by the end of the week. Committeeman Shevelew suggested the Committee wait until the State finalizes their budget before trying to finalize the townships. Mrs. King asked if there were wage freezes at the township level and the Mayor stated that is still being worked on as part of the budget. Mr. Christensen said the school is now negotiating for their contract and the board has asked them to look into a few concessions such as salary freeze, less percentage of increase, and health benefits. Mary Anne Reinhart asked where the township was with their land acquisition and felt this should be worked on strongly to double the funds coming into the township. The Administrator stated they needed approximately 300 more acres to reach their goal. There being no further comments from the public the meeting was closed to the public.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Susan D. Onorato
Township Clerk