

Shamong, New Jersey 08088

May 12, 2011

The Shamong Township Committee held a Special Joint Meeting on the above date at the Indian Mills Memorial School with the Shamong Township Board of Education.

Mayor Shevelew called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 pm.

The Shamong Board of Education read their sunshine statement into the record.

The Clerk stated please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act in the following manner. Written notice has been sent to the Burlington County Times and the Central Record and posted as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and)	Mr. Sean Gray	P
Absentees)	Mr. Kenneth Long	P
Noted)	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P
	Mr. Christopher Norman	Arrived at 9:15 pm
	Mr. Jonathon Shevelew	P

### **Public Comment**

Mayor Shevelew opened the meeting for public comment.

Elaine Billmeyer asked to read a statement she had prepared as a result of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Shamong Township Committee meeting. The statement is attached:

Elizabeth Garcia, Shamong Township Board of Education (STBOE) Solicitor, stated: Both boards will discuss different options on where to cut and there is no requirement that the school board take the recommendation of where to cut from the budget. They will cut where they feel it is comfortable to take from the budget. She stated that was an issue last year that is why she was asked to make this statement.

Nancy Thomas, a resident of Willow Grove Road stated: She understands when the budget is defeated the Township Committee needs to cut the budget or leave it where it stands. She said the budget was defeated by a small percentage, our district was ranked #1, and the teachers took a pay freeze for the year so she hoped the township committee would take this into consideration possibly leaving the budget in tact.

Mr. Christensen spoke on all the ways they have kept expenses down and feels the budget is in order.

Mayor Shevelew stated the Shamong Township Committee would like to hold a Caucus to discuss the information that was recently provided by the STBOE Business Office.

### **Caucus:**

The Shamong Township Committee entered into a Caucus in the Indian Mills Memorial School (IMMS) Library. No members of the public joined this meeting. As a result of the Caucus, the Township Committee drafted several questions to aide clarification to the items within School Budget.

The Shamong Township Committee rejoined the joint meeting taking place in the IMMS Cafeteria at approximately 8:15. Mayor Shevelew submitted the following questions to the STBOE.

- Mayor Shevelew asked for clarification of the calculation used for the tax rate of 3.37 cents as our calculations show the increase in taxes to be 3.89 cents. The value of a 1 cent increase as per the Shamong Township Tax Assessor is \$41,173.17. After a brief discussion Mr. Mados stated he would provide the basis he used to determine the value of a 1 cent tax increase to be roughly \$43,000.
- Mayor Shevelew asked for the value of the SREC revenue projected for 2011/2012 and where is this located in the budget. The STBOE verified there is \$150,000 in Miscellaneous Revenue which includes \$142,000 of revenue projected from the sale of SREC's and \$8,000 in revenue from the "Pay to Play" program instituted by the STBOE relative to fees charged for the participation in certain extra curricular activities and or sports.
- Mayor Shevelew asked for an explanation on why the Energy (Electricity) line item # 07634 of the budget the actual expenditure of 2009/2010 was \$137,337, the revised 2010/2011 budgeted amount was \$160,900 and the 2011/2012 budgeted amount was \$160,900? Mayor Shevelew stated there should be some savings realized due to the Solar Project installed on both schools. There was also a discussion regarding the original planned size of the Solar Panel project was increased due to a significant decrease in the cost of the panels which should bring even additional savings to the school system. There was a discussion between both boards. Mr. Tuman from the STBOE agreed with Mayor Shevelew and stated a savings should be realized and that they would look into this matter and report back to the Shamong Township Committee. The Shamong Township Committee also asked for verification on the size of the solar panels of both school buildings. The STBOE reported the solar panels on both buildings generate approximately 221 kilowatts of electricity.
- Mayor Shevelew asked Mr. Christensen when the STBOE would be required to name a replacement for him. Mr. Christensen stated the state requires there to be a named Chief School Administrator in place which is a certified position. Mayor Shevelew asked if this was the case even if hypothetically a Superintendent was severely injured or killed in an accident. Although Mr. Christensen would personally hope this wouldn't happen to him, he stated a person would need to be named to this position.

- Mayor Shevelew asked the STBOE to confirm the change in the enrollment from this year to the budget period. Mr. Christensen confirmed the enrollment would be declining by 15 students in the budget period.
- Mayor Shevelew asked if there were any retirement savings not included in the budget. Mr. Christensen confirmed the savings of approximately \$30,000 as discussed in the meeting held on Tuesday with Mr. Shevelew, Mr. Norman and Mrs. Onorato,
- Mayor Shevelew asked for the status of the Shared Service Agreement with Medford Lakes or any other town. He also asked if the STBOE was interested in entering into a shared service for other services. Mr. Christensen also stated that the STBOE is currently benefiting from several Shared Service Agreements from snow removal with the Township of Shamong to the purchase of supplies and insurance with other school districts. Mr. Tower's stated that the Shared Service Agreement has not been finalized and the candidate review is ongoing. He also stated that the STBOE is hopeful to enter into future Shared Service Agreements when possible to improve the services to the students.

At this time Mayor Shevelew opened the meeting to the public.

Karen Clementi, school employee, asked if there would be a selection committee and or public input for the new Superintendent. Mr. Tower's said probably not.

Michelle Montros, school employee, asked if the Superintendent interview process would provide feedback from employees currently working for him. Mr. Tower stated he is nervous since this is a new process and they want to make sure they pick the right person which will take time but they are looking at Medford Lakes and feel he is the right person. If the employees have any feedback they would certainly listen.

Nancy Thomas, resident, asked the STBOE when will a formal meeting take place for the Shared Service Agreement for the Superintendent?

Julie Johnson, resident, asked if the Shared Service Agreements will include programs eventually in other areas or just the Superintendent. Mr. Christensen stated that Berlin Boro and Gibbsboro started out sharing a Superintendent and now have other shared services as well. He cannot state that would happen here at this time.

Mr. Christensen stated that the County Superintendent is a shared position. There is pressure on the STBOE to pursue these agreements.

Christian Lawler, resident, stated he has concerns regarding the solar project and that he had voted against the budget. He is concerned with statements such as the budget was voted down by only so many votes. He supports creative ways to balance the budget including energy savings.

Debbie Drabol, school employee, asked if the STBOE would consider the option to hire a part time Superintendent instead of the Shared Service Agreement if a person was a better

fit for the Shamong Township School District. The Board would always consider other ways but a part time is not the same as shared services, since with shared services someone is always available.

Pat Dorelli, school employee stated last year e-mails were sent out to confirm the efforts of energy saving measures taken last year such as turning off computer and lights. Per Mr. Christiansen the savings last year from this program was \$40,000. This money was placed into a capital account.

Brain Davis, School employee asked if solar panels decrease the amount of electric used or do they supplement the amount of electric used. He was told they supplement.

Rick Morrel, resident wanted to thank the Township Committee for not looking at personnel issues to balance the budget.

There was discussion on the date of the next meeting.

Dee Alspach, school employee and resident, asked if there was an urgency to find a replacement for the Superintendent and would the BOE consider hiring a part time interim person. The BOE confirmed they have already advertised for an Interim Superintendent.

After a brief discussion between both the Township Committee and the BOE the BOE moved for a recess to address the issue related to the amount budgeted for electricity.

The BOE reconvened the meeting at approximately 9:55 pm and Mr. Tuman reported on the projected reduction of budgeted electric cost anticipated due to the solar panel project. The current budgeted electrical costs of \$160,000 should be reduced to \$107,000 reflecting a \$53,000 savings.

After a brief discussion Mayor Shevelew stated the Township Committee would caucus to discuss the revisions presented to them. The Board asked if the Township Committee would include the electricity savings in their recommendations. Mayor Shevelew stated they would. (Approximately 10:00 pm)

**Caucus:**

The Shamong Township Committee entered into a Caucus in the Indian Mills Memorial School (IMMS) Library. No members of the public joined this meeting. The Township Committee, Mr. Heinold and Mrs. Onorato were present. There was a discussion on the \$53,000 energy savings, projected \$30,000 savings due to the recent retirement and the unknown savings of the potential Shared Service Agreement. As the corrected budget packet was received at the meeting tonight by the Committee members, several Committee members would like additional time to review this information in light of the recent finding of electrical savings.

The Shamong Township Committee rejoined the joint meeting taking place in the IMMS Cafeteria at approximately 10:08 pm. Mayor Shevelew stated the Committee members would like more time to review the recent budget documentation received. Mr. Christensen questioned why the Committee needed more time since the budget information was sent out last Friday. Mayor Shevelew reminded Mr. Christensen that during the meeting in his office on Tuesday we learned the budget packets we received were missing every other page. The new budget packets were received tonight by members of the Township Committee.

Mayor Shevelew announced that the Shamong Township Committee will meet again on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Municipal Building. The Shamong Township Board of Education asked to hold a joint meeting at that time to be able to have the opportunity to discuss with the Committee any actions it would like to take. Mayor Shevelew asked if there were any other comments from the Committee members or the STBOE members. There being none, Mayor Shevelew thanked those present for their time and concerns and again stated that the Committee does not wish to be in the position of reviewing the Board of Education's budget, but by State Law and the outcome of the election we are faced with the requirement to do so. He also stated by State Law we are required to provide, by line item, items which the Township Committee would recommend to the Board of Education to reduce their budget. He stated that the Shamong Township would not be recommending any reductions to the Board of Education budget directly related to teaching or program staff. Mayor Shevelew also stated that although the Township Committee is required to detail by line item where the reductions should be made the Board of Education may reallocate those reductions as they deem necessary at their discretion according to the law.

**On Motion of Committeeman Long, seconded by Committeeman Norman, it was moved to adjourn the special meeting. All members voting yes.**

**Attest:**

**Susan D. Onorato  
Municipal Clerk**