

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Wilson stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR MICHAEL WILSON
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JOHN NEWMAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting April 4, 2011 and was seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Hearing: 2011 Annual Budget of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mayor Wilson explained that we are going to have the Public Hearing this evening but we would not be adopting the budget until the next meeting.

Mr. Bellina explained there is a procedural issue that deals with the library appropriation and due to a recent act of legislation; it is now required to list the appropriation separately.

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting to the public.

Tom Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, asked why the taxes are being raised and to please consider Councilman Newman’s suggestion and make a 10% cut across the board.

Mike Federici, 96 Broadway, stated originally when he first came to Freehold 11 years ago his taxes were under \$6,000 they have gone up almost \$3,000. He stated it is not a good economy and taxes should not be raised.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Presentation of Awards for the Model Car Contest of the Freehold Racers Club.”
(Al Michenfelder).**

Al Michenfelder stated the Freehold Racers Club is in their 19th year. He stated out of the 99 votes, Nick, the winner of the contest, received 75 of them.

Mayor Wilson awarded Nick with a gift certificate to the Court Jester Restaurant.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2011/3 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2007/3 Adopted on February 20, 2007, Providing for the Resurfacing of Monmouth Avenue and Ann Street, in Order to Amend the Purpose, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting to the public.

There was no public comment.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2011/3 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2007/3 ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2007, PROVIDING FOR THE RESURFACING OF MONMOUTH AVENUE AND ANN STREET, IN ORDER TO AMEND THE PURPOSE, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated these were two streets that we had on our program for resurfacing, but unfortunately we had a bad winter and there are many roads that we might have to do in the near future.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this project was budgeted for and there won't be any extra debt incurred.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2011/4 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2007/17, Adopted on September 4, 2007, Providing for Improvements to Borough Hall, in Order to Amend the Purpose, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting to the public.

There was no public comment.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that a Bond Ordinance entitled **“BOND ORDINANCE #2011/4 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2007/17 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2007, PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BOROUGH HALL, IN ORDER TO AMEND THE PURPOSE, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,”** be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Appointing Individuals to the Municipal Alliance Committee:
a. Sharon Shutzer, Co-Chairperson – Term expiring December 31, 2011.

b. Marc LeVine, Class VI – Term expiring December 31, 2013.”

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she is already a member of the Municipal Alliance, but this resolution will make her a Co-Chairperson.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION APPROVING INDIVIDUALS TO THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Mayor’s Nominations for Appointment to the Community Information Committee:

- a. Mark Judman – Term expires December 31, 2011.
This appointment will fill an existing vacancy.”**

Mayor Wilson offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION COMMITTEE.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Appointment of Joseph Panzarino as a member of the Freehold Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program, effective May 2, 2011.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 13A.

Councilman DiBenedetto publicly thanked all of the Jr. Firefighters in attendance at the meeting for volunteering.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No.14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Sidewalk Café License, Texas Mexican Restaurant, 3 West Main Street.**
- b. **Investors Savings Bank, Grand Opening, 5/14/11, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 21 West Main Street.**
- c. **Life Chain, St. Rose of Lima Parish, 5/22/11, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM, South Street sidewalk starting at St. Rose Parking Lot. c/o Jim Meyer**
- d. **Vendor License, Weaser’s Ices, Operating an ice cream truck, 4/28/11 – 10/31/11, Sunday through Saturday, 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM.**
- e. **Raffle License #11-11, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Rose of Lima #737, 6/12/11, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, 70 East Main Street.**
- f. **Raffle License #12-11, Greater Freehold Area Pop Warner, 6/18/11, 9:00 PM, held at St. Rose of Lima Church, 16 McLean Street**
- g. **Raffle License #13-11, Greater Freehold Area Pop Warner, Carnival Games, 6/16/11 – 6/18/11, 16 McLean Street.**
- h. **MDA Walk-A-Thon, Freehold Letter Carriers, 6/26/11, 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM, starting in the Market Yard Parking Lot to East Main Street to South Street to Park Avenue to West Main Street ending back at the Market Yard.**
- i. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Matthew Beierschmitt, Freehold.**
- j. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Michael Fennen, Jackson.**
- k. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Alberto Quijano, Ocean.**
- l. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Michael Nwachukwu, Freehold.**
- m. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Mohamed S. Naga, Asbury Park.**
- n. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Betty Richardson, Old Bridge.**
- o. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Joseph McAninch, Freehold.**
- p. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Gary Tirpak, Freehold.**
- q. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Albert Clark, Lakewood.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NO. 14A THROUGH 14Q.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$2,231,494.97 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson opened the meeting to the public.

Jeff Friedman, 3 Broad Street, handed out a flyer with information on the Municipal Alliance Golf outing on Monday, June 27, 2011 at the Battleground Country Club.

Bill Madden, 10 Vrendenburgh Avenue, stated there was a serious accident on Route 33 and the first aid responders wanted to thank Councilwoman Shutzer for her help and support to the injured.

Dan Xavier, 52 Brinckerhoff Avenue, thanked the governing body and Dan Megill for the repaving and curbing on Prospect Place. He also thanked them for the new trees that were planted.

Tom Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, asked why the minutes are not posted in a timely manner. He also requested that Olde Freehold Day be renamed. He explained there is no reason to insult the sensibilities of many of our residents.

Mr. Bellina explained the most recently adopted minutes were the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2011 and they will be posted this week.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Wilson declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Wilson called upon the council for their comments.

Councilman Sims thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this evening. He also thanked the voters for approving both school budgets. He commended the military and government on their efforts on the death of Osama Bin Laden

Councilman Newman stated the following:

“I hear that it was charged against me that I am often quiet, but I think it may be that I am soft-spoken which is too often equated with silence. I assure my fellow members on council that I will make a concerted effort for them to hear me in the future.

On the issue of budgetary and financial concerns I have brought several matters to the attention of my brethren on council. Unfortunately, my words have not always met with approval or I have been strategically delayed and here are a few examples:

- In the first few months of being elected I proposed a Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. Despite immediate approval from the mayor and council the matter was not placed on the agenda for approximately eight months. I made numerous requests for the work to be performed and to place the matter before the council but it was not until after the November election that a resolution was finally before the governing body. Incidentally this resolution was very familiar to the one I originally drafted in the preceding April. Unfortunately this delay impeded the new committees' efforts to be of any use for the current budget process. At one of the first meetings of the new Citizen Budget Advisory Committee, I proposed that the Citizen Committee interview each and every employee to learn of any cost savings. The idea was rejected. At the next meeting Mr. Nolan Higgins made the very same recommendation, which was again rejected. As an attorney that works in the field of bankruptcy, I can assure you that one of the first functions performed by a bankruptcy trustee coming into a failing company is to interview the staff for cost savings. While I am by no means equating Freehold Borough to a financially troubled company, I know that professionally and personally the men in the field can help executives find financial savings. Mr. Higgins, I am asking you, as you are going to be the next mayor, that you don't take no as an answer and that you conduct these interviews to discover the savings that we both know exist and are already known to the Borough staff.
- After learning of the dispute by the landlords in town, I spoke to our night time code officer, reviewed code reports and made recommendations to council on how to conduct inspections and review our current fee structure, while at the same time not increasing costs to the taxpayers and still maintaining services. Aside from procedural inefficiencies I made a specific recommendation for cost savings. The Borough of Freehold is currently paying a police officer approximately \$50,000 in wages and benefits to accompany the night time code enforcement officer. This equates to one code enforcement officer costing the taxpayer of Freehold \$100,000 in wages and benefits. I proposed revising the way of doing business, eliminating the police officer and thereby the Borough could have saved taxpayers money or in the alternative had easily hired an additional inspector. This recommendation was flatly rejected. The appearance of night time inspections, however, inefficient and costly was deemed more important than efficiency and organization.
- When I proposed not creating a new job in the fire department as a non-essential job that could be performed more cost effectively through outside sources no one on council listened.
- When I spoke out about against endless appeals and wasting taxpayer money on yet another appeal in the Veronica Davis matter, no one listened.
- When I proposed a resolution which would enable us greater funding sources through grants for improving our streets and roads, the response that I received was that it wasn't in the mayor's top ten list of priorities.

I just recently proposed to the Finance Committee that we investigate consolidating the Municipal Court. Since the year 2000, the Municipal Court budget has increased from \$194,000 to today in ten years over \$400,000. There is definitely room to cut or consolidate and I ask that the Finance Committee work with me in investigating this matter further.

I have also asked for all records for our engineering and legal services. This is not a statement on the level of performance of these professionals, but it is a way seeking further savings for the taxpayer. I look at Fair Haven as an example. An in-house engineer, as we do currently, they were able to consolidate this job with their head of public works, their outside engineering firm for public projects and with the public planning board engineer. Not only did this save money but the fees paid by applicants to a planning board engineer are now paid directly to the Borough of Fair Haven. Recently, Asbury Park just voted to merge its engineering and public works departments. Fair Haven reports that the savings are more than justified.

In a recent letter to News Transcript I promoted the idea of a 10% reduction in budget departments. I must admit that this is not an idea that I arrived at by myself. Aside from seeing this done in corporate America and reading about it in various levels of government throughout the entire country, I will readily tell you that this was an idea proposed by another councilman at a Finance Committee meeting. That councilman described several scenes in his personal life where residents have literally been in tears about the current level of taxes statewide and that his neighbors cannot afford to live in the Borough of Freehold anymore. This is a sad story that is playing out across the State. Unfortunately I am the only person still pursuing the across the board cuts and I am now taking flack for this idea even by the councilman who proposed it originally.

The Borough departments have been operating at the same costs for several years and historically many did not spend the amounts allotted to them. Each department must find ways of savings and hopefully ways to reduce government and reduce waste and I ask the person who was on the Finance Committee that you do not forsake your neighbors and stand behind the idea that you originally proposed but was rejected for not doing enough in the cost savings department. We need to do something and I ask that you stick to your guns in that issue.

Again, I look to Fair Haven as an example in this regard. This year 2011, is the fourth straight year there has been a decrease in the Fair Haven municipal tax rate. In 2010, Mayor Michael Halfacre said the budget was arrived at by pinching pennies. He stated there were no gimmicks, no four day work weeks, no furloughs; he said we did (governing body of Fair Haven) it the old fashioned way. We went to the department heads and asked them to squeeze as much as they can and I know that we can do it and I ask the members to consider this as we now have some extra time to consider the budget.

I realize my recent letter to the paper may have not won me any friends on the council, but I immediately noticed that at the following council meeting someone proposed eliminating the benefits for part-time and elected officials, which was tabled and may be brought up at an upcoming meeting.

I am more than willing to take the heat from my brethren if it results in them coming up with ideas for savings and efficiencies for all our neighbors. Here are some specific cuts:

1. Eliminate the night-time inspections of residents saving \$50,000.
2. 10% cuts to each department's "Other" expenses as it is in the budget. If you go on-line you can now see the budget on the e-government section of the

website. It is not a lot of money. If you go 10% in the “Other” expenses for different departments, the Mayor and Council, Administrative Executive, Collection of Taxes, it is only going to amount to \$14,000.

3. Reduce the pay of elected officials. Freehold Borough is a county seat, approximately 12,000 residents, approximately 1.9 square miles. Comparing apples to apples there are two county seats with similar populations and similar geographic size. Somerville, Somerset County and Woodbury, Gloucester County. Somerville has a population of approximately 12,000 residents and it is 2.4 square miles. Woodbury’s population is 10,400 residents and it is 2.1 square miles. Both towns pay their governing bodies in the range of \$2,000-\$2,500 per member. Colts Neck pays their governing body \$2,000 per year. Howell’s five governing body members reduced their own wages this year from \$22,000 in 2010 to \$16,500 in 2011 which is now \$3,300 per member. A \$3,000 per elected official would equate to a savings of \$21,000 and it would still have Freehold Borough receiving more compensation than many of its neighbors. I realize this may be a burden on the council as the council receives their pay at the beginning of the year for the full year. If not feasible, I propose the reduction for the following year to \$5,000 per councilman and \$7,000 for the mayor, along with an ordinance that Borough officials can only receive pay increases if approved through a referendum. Public servants should not have the luxury of voting themselves raises.
4. Cut the salaries of certain professionals and this is not a comment on the performance of these professionals but through my own research I conclude that we are paying too much for certain professionals. For example the Borough’s prosecutor receives \$47,000 per year for working one day per week. Our judge receives \$52,000 for working one day per week. This averages out to a salary for both of them of approximately \$250,000 a year. Many of our residents do not make \$50,000 per year and I would venture to guess that many more do not make \$250,000 a year. Again, looking at our counterparts in Somerville and Woodbury I know the pay for the prosecutors whose court sessions are weekly like Freehold Borough are \$13,000 and \$26,000 and I was only able to ascertain the judges salary for one of the towns \$26,000 in that town where the prosecutor was paid \$13,000. These positions are highly coveted and are currently filled by the current local Democratic party treasurer and former local Democratic party treasurer. If the current prosecutor and judge do not like a pay cut I know that we can find qualified candidates for \$10,000 less per position with a cost savings of \$20,000.
5. The Shade Tree Commission has a budget of \$53,700. I propose slashing that in half while the town restructures other ways to provide other services. This will be a temporary thing or permanent thing. The cost savings there is \$26,850.
6. This is my “catch-all” other savings. We have a senior citizens program which is listed in the budget as \$2,600. This is a holiday party for the senior citizens in town but is used as a campaign platform by the ruling party and advertised on their website and in their campaign literature.

Since they announce it as their party, I propose that they fund it. I see no reason to fund a party for one group of people at the tax payer's expense.

Community Information Committee this budget is a small bit but it's another bit that adds up to \$1,500. Currently this committee is producing a newsletter with the aid of outside funding. However, they also came to council recently requesting money for software and a flat screen television.

Eliminate funding for overnight visits to the League of Municipalities or other local conferences when day trips can be made and officials and employees can pay their own overnight stays at these places. My estimated cost of savings there is \$4,000.

Adding up those items my approximation is \$140,000 in savings without making any real drastic cuts or changing the way business is being done in Freehold Borough.

There were several other ideas outlined in my letter to the paper for future investigation of tax savings and too often ideas are left in the dust bin and not pursued. I am not going to forget them, I look forward to working with the good people on council so that we can work responsibly together, provide necessary services for the town and doing it cost efficiently.

Thank you very much."

Councilman Schnurr stated he is on the Finance Committee and he stated, "Whether you whisper or speak out loud, I hear you."

The first time I heard of Councilman Newman's objections to the proposed budget is when I read it in the newspaper. The purpose of the Finance Committee, as it relates to the budget, is to review and fine tune the budget, ask questions of the Business Administration and the Chief Financial Officer and to look for areas to trim or cut altogether. The majority members on council actually did that. He stated what I recommended was a 5% across the board cut for all non-salaried items. We did that and as a result of the questions and suggestions from the majority members on council the initial proposed budget was reduced approximately 1 cent for \$100 of assessed valuation. The Finance Committee is designed to be a collaborative effort, not for any one person to remain silent for months on end and then for purely political and partisan purposes keep the proposed changes all to themselves until after the budget is finished and after it is offered for adoption. If anyone had ideas on how to reduce spending, the time to present them would have been at the Finance Committee meetings where the real work is done.

Councilman Schnurr commented on one item that was brought up about retaining an "in-house" municipal attorney. He explained that towns our size do not have in-house attorneys but in reviewing the legal costs for last year it should be no surprise that Freehold Borough has incurred large legal expenses from having to defend itself from a lawsuit filed against us by the absentee landlord dominated Freehold Landlord Association. From day one Councilman Newman as a leader of the Borough Republican party has been in "bed" with these folks. The FLA stated they met with Councilman Newman even before he was sworn into office. They were ecstatic that they had someone on council on their side advocating for their interests. If Councilman Newman was really serious about reducing our legal expenses he would join the majority on council.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated he is Chairman of the Finance Committee and they have had more meetings this year than they have had in the last eight years combined. This is a very tough economy and the people that are working on the budget on a daily basis are looking at every area. He stated it was very upsetting to read all of Councilman Newman's ideas in the paper. He stated maybe there needs to be minutes in the Finance Committee meetings. This way the meetings would be documented because right now the residents are sitting in the audience wondering who's right and who's wrong. We have these meetings and none of this has been said. We read about it in the paper and it now becomes a big political game. The professionals we have working for us do a tremendous job and they are looking at every single dollar spent. If there are areas that we can cut, we will cut but we're not going to jeopardize the services that make this town so great.

Councilman Kane congratulated Dan Xavier and the Freehold Borough School Board on the passing of the school budget. The governing body suggested they go out and explain to the residents how the budget really works and show them the numbers.

Councilman Kane explained to Mr. Baldwin that we're not going to change the name of a great event. All we are doing is continuing tradition. It is a shame that one word creates a perception to another person. Olde Freehold Day was created 35 years ago by a group of people during the bi-centennial celebration. They just wanted to have an old fashioned day of family fun and showcase Lake Topanemus Park. Councilman Kane invited Mr. Baldwin to the next Olde Freehold Day meeting at the Borough Hall on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Unfortunately the Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled due to the rain. He also congratulated the new school board members and he thanked them for volunteering. He also thanked all the residents that voted for the school election this year.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated he was not happy and that there was no "I" in team. All of the governing body put their hand on the Bible and said they would try to do the best they could and this isn't about us playing political games. This is about the taxpayers. He stated I think one of us has lost focus on that and it's a real shame, it's not even election time yet. Some of us should start off our speeches with "Once upon a time and end with, The End."

Councilman DiBenedetto stated he belongs to committees and let's say he was in Code, he would say yes; let's see what the night time person does, he would ask the supervisor. He has ridden with some of the police officers and he knows what they go through. We've had a very bad winter and some of the roads have been destroyed and we are doing the best we can with what we have, but to use you people as a political ploy is terrible. He will not lower himself to that.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she detests politics. When she ran for council the first time she said to the committee that interviewed her that you have to understand that you will not tell me what to say or what to do. She will react with what she thinks is in the best interest of the people in Freehold Borough and that is exactly what she has always done. She can somehow keep herself outside of the politics. When people ask me if she likes the job, she says she loves the job; but she hates the politics and tonight is a perfect example.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated when she read the newspaper, the first time she was stunned. She said that she must be older and more "out of it" than she originally thought because she doesn't remember any of this stuff that supposedly went on. She feels better knowing that it's not that she doesn't remember it, it's that it never happened.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Board of Education did a fantastic job of going out to the community and explaining the budget. She congratulated the fire department on the first of a two-part training with the focus on the downtown and the best way of fighting fires there. She is

looking forward to the drill that will be occurring on October 9, 2011 with the County. She offered best wishes to Captain Glenn Roberts on a speedy recovery. She commended the Freehold First Aid, Freehold Fire Department, Freehold Police Department for their expedient response to a horrific traffic accident on Route 33. She also thanked Angel DeJesus from the Streets and Roads Department for thoroughly sweeping the debris off the highway.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained to Mr. Baldwin that she does answer his questions but when it's not the answer he wants to hear he doesn't hear her. She understands his sentiment but to ask for an across the board 10% decrease would be damaging to the Borough. It would cut services and personnel that we absolutely cannot afford to lose. We are doing a responsible budget. We have not filled positions that opened up through attrition. We have valuable employees and if we cut our budget by 10% this town would not be happy. It would not be protected. As far as Olde Freehold Day is concerned she knows exactly what he is saying but there were many wonderful things that happened in old Freehold. It is those things that we are celebrating.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she was listening to Councilman Newman and she agrees that a couple of the things that he said were discussed. We discussed eliminating the police officer who accompanies the code enforcement officer at night, but we determined that accompanying the code officer outweighed the savings. She stated she has not turned a deaf ear to Councilman Newman, she does not always agree with Councilman Newman, but she thinks he would be hard-pressed to say that she has ignored him.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she was extremely upset that the Senior Holiday Party and the \$2,600.00 spent on it would be called a political event. For 19 years she has worked as the liaison to the senior citizens of Freehold Borough. She has fought to keep politics out of the senior citizen issue. The majority of the senior citizens could not tell you whether she was a democrat or a republican.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will not apologize for the salary that she gets for being a councilperson. She works hard for that. She asked Councilman Newman if he gave his salary back.

Mayor Wilson stated this is his 30th budget and he looks forward to it being his last one. He has been through all of this many times throughout the years. When he read what Councilman Newman wrote in the News Transcript, it rose his "Irish" up. Councilman Newman didn't give us the courtesy of giving us his concerns on the budget. We had to read it in the newspaper. This is simply politics pure and simple. An across the board 10% cut would mean fewer police and fewer streets and roads employees. There are some towns that chose to go in a different direction than we did and if the residents don't like it there is an election coming up. He stated shame on you, Councilman Newman for not talking to us before going straight to the newspapers. For a lot of my 30 years the local Republican Party in Freehold Borough had no vision for this town, they were bankrupt of ideas and never had a clue on fiscal policy for this town. He was very disappointed that the republicans are playing politics with our budget.

Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj

