

**LAKWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MEETING OF: THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006**

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2006 in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 6:30 PM for the Executive Session and 7:30 PM for the Conference Meeting, with the following present:

Mayor.....	Meir Lichtenstein
Deputy Mayor.....Absent.....	Raymond Coles
Committee Members.....	Senator Robert Singer
	Menashe Miller
	Charles Cunliffe
Municipal Manager.....	Frank Edwards
Municipal Attorney.....	Steven Secare
Municipal Clerk.....	Bernadette Standowski

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.
Resolution No. 2006-208 – Adopted.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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, by Resolution of the Township Committee adopted January 1, 2006 and published in the Ocean County Observer on January 17, 2006.

ROLL CALL

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to open the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF: 4/27/06, 5/4/06

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, to approve the Minutes of 4/27/06.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Minutes approved.

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mayor Lichtenstein, to approve the Minutes of 5/4/06.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Mr. Cunliffe, Mayor Lichtenstein
Not Voting: Senator Singer
Abstain: Mr. Miller

Minutes approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF: 5/4/06

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mayor Lichtenstein, to approve the above Closed Session Minutes.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Mr. Cunliffe, Mayor Lichtenstein
Abstain: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller

Closed Session Minutes approved.

PRESENTATIONS: None

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE HEARD for a limit of one half-hour. Each speaker will have four (4) minutes at the podium.

Mayor Lichtenstein opened the meeting to the public.

Rich Orne, Vine Street – Thanked the Committee for the Resolution on the Agenda this evening declaring July 3 through July 8 as Support the Troops Week.

Noreen Gill – Commented with regard to subscription busing and the School Board Budget.

Bert Albert, Joseph Drive – Commented with regard to the Lakewood Airport Authority, and the award of a 2006 appropriation from the FAA wherein Lakewood Airport has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$700,000.00.

David Drukaroff, 1433 Laurelwood Avenue – Commented on the School Board Budget.

Bill Hobday, Schoolhouse Lane – Advised he attended a forum on property taxes in the State of New Jersey. Also commented with regard to the School Board Budget.

Jim Corsaro, 28 Autumn Tide Drive – Commented on the School Board Budget.

Joe Kirsch, Skyline Drive – Commented on the School Board Budget

Yehuda Shain, 1140 Forest Avenue – Addressed the issue of street light outages.

Mr. Edwards advised that a citizen can also report street light outages directly to JCPL.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Mr. Edwards to obtain a schedule of the light surveys that the Police Department has been performing.

Mr. Miller asked what number should be called when someone observes a street light outage.

Mr. Edwards answered that there are several numbers and all these numbers have been

published. There is a telephone number in the Police Department, Traffic & Safety, as well as directly to JCPL which is included in your electric bill. There are also employees from the Township who are riding around and checking for light outages, but these lights can go out at any time. He suggested that if anyone observes a street light outage, to please call and inform the Township. He further suggested that the Township inform the BPU of issues that relate to JCPL, as they are the Agency that regulates JCPL.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Edwards to forward the telephone number in the Police Department to his mailbox.

Senator Singer stated that if JCPL is not repairing the light outages, he agreed that action should be brought against JCPL in front of the BPU.

Mr. Cunliffe asked that the telephone numbers be posted on the website, with a special visual treatment so the public can find it easily on the website, and be afforded the opportunity to report the light outages.

Mayor Lichtenstein advised he would meet with Mr. Edwards to see if the employee has actually been doing the light outage surveys, and to see if the outages were reported, and repairs completed.

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

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

- Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Lichtenstein opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Ordinance No. 2006-37 adopted on second reading.

- Mayor Lichtenstein advised he would like to put a Motion on the floor for discussion, and a presentation by Dr. Marlowe, so they will start with Resolution No. 11 on the Consent Agenda.

11. Resolution approving changes to the revised 2006-2007 School District Budget. Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, for discussion.

A presentation was given by Dr. Frank Marlowe, with regard to his review of the 2006-2007 Lakewood School Budget. (Public Statement by Dr. Frank M. Marlowe – Lakewood – May 11, 2006, attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

Senator Singer thanked Mr. Cunliffe and Deputy Mayor Coles for their hard work on this matter. He also thanked Dr. Marlowe for his comments and expertise. He appreciates the fact that the School Board has made some strides, but this is not a learning curve. This is our tax dollars, and the School Board has had enough years to get their act together. It is a disgrace their act is not together right now. He knows that the School Board has a meeting tonight, but it is a little discerning to him that no one from the School Board is present this evening. The School Board still spends money there as though it is not their money. The perfect example is that there is no reason at this stage to hire the former Commissioner of Education to be their advisor on this. The Township is not their adversary, and never has been. Whatever that fee was, it was unnecessary. The School Board certainly has enough staff there, had the Township made cuts unreasonable, to appeal it. This is just the way things are done there. This is not their money, it is the Township's money. The fact is that they are in a situation with no balances is inconceivable. It is a hundred million dollar budget. If town hall was run this way, the Committee would not be sitting here.

Mr. Cunliffe agreed that had it been a different situation and had there been a fund balance they probably could have.....but there is a reason why there is no fund balance, but he does not know if they want to get into it this evening, but there are situations, and it goes back to that business office.

Senator Singer added that is what he was talking about. He sat with members of the Committee, with professionals, and had to plead for money for the School Board, not last year, but years ago. He was embarrassed by the responses. They got the money from the state to make things right. They are sitting back here years later, and not able to say, they are a model of how a school should be run. That is what his problem is. When you still have inconsistencies in the administration office, there is something desperately wrong. He is not saying that the Township is not doing the right aspect of things, but what he is saying is that you have seen the Attorney making a plea that you have to look at the ten million dollar expenditure and see how you can correct it by making it less expensive. And that was the same recommendation that he made last year. And nothing happened from last year to this year, and is nothing happens again this year, they will be sitting here next year with the same things. They have seen no movement; they have some better formulation, but some is not good enough; not with the size budget involved. He knows the School Board is at a meeting tonight, but he thinks it was important enough for the President of the School Board to have been here, to share their thanks in bringing this matter to a fair conclusion. In all of his twenty six years on the Committee did they ever want to hurt the education of the children, nor do they want to do it now. But certainly, as taxpayers of this town, you have to be realistic and say at least let us feel comfortable that the money you are spending, it being spent right. He can not say that, nor can anyone here say that to the public, that they are comfortable with the way the money is being spent. With that, he will vote yes.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe and
Mayor Lichtenstein.

Resolution No. 2006-209 – Adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township of Lakewood and will be enacted by one Motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1. Bingo and Raffle Applications: St. Mary of the Lake.
Resolution No. 2006-210
2. Resolution supporting the 101 Days of Safe Summer Kick-Off Event
Resolution No. 2006-211
3. Resolution authorizing the execution of a change order #3 in connection with a project known as site lighting and press boxes project at the Kettle Creek Recreational Complex.
Resolution No. 2006-212
4. Resolution authorizing the execution of a change order #1 in connection with a project known as 2004 Roadway Improvements Raintree Phase II.
Resolution No. 2006-213
5. Resolution declaring July 3 through July 8, 2006 as Support the Troops Week.
Resolution No. 2006-214
6. Resolution establishing traffic regulations in connection with the commencement ceremonies to be conducted at Georgian Court University.
Resolution No. 2006-215
7. Resolution in support of Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month.
Resolution No. 2006-216
8. Resolution awarding contract to Train's Towers Inc., for the removal/replacement of the Police Communications Tower, sum not to exceed \$105,058.00.
Resolution No. 2006-217
9. Resolution supporting an amendment to the Binding Arbitration Statute.
Resolution No. 2006-218
10. Resolution rejecting all bids received with respect to the Lakewood MUA Route 88 Water\Sewer Project.
Resolution No. 2006-219

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, to approve Resolution Nos. 1 through 10, on the Consent Agenda.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Senator Singer abstained on Resolution No. 1 and Resolution No. 6.
Resolution Nos. 2006-210 through 2006-219 – Adopted.

RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA – None

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 5/9/06

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Senator Singer, to approve the above Bill List.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Cunliffe and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Negative: Mr. Miller

Bill List approved.

PARKS AND EVENTS CORRESPONDENCE

Per schedule of five (5) items attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, to approve the above requests.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Parks and Events requests approved.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Cunliffe for his hard work on the School Board Budget.

Senator Singer thanked Mayor Lichtenstein and the Police Department for their work on the tragedy in Lakewood. He has heard the Mayor's comments on TV and radio, and feels they were quite appropriate. And certainly, the Committees' concern and sympathy goes out to the family directly, and the community as a whole. This is a tragedy to all of Lakewood and the Mayor has certainly handled it with the utmost sensitivity, which is very much appreciated.

Mr. Cunliffe reminded everyone that this Saturday, at 6:30 PM at the John Patrick Sports Complex, the BOCA Men's Soccer U-23 Team versus the Dynasty PDL Professional Development League, will be visiting Lakewood to play an exhibition game. Admission is free. He invited everyone to attend and enjoy an evening of Soccer. Details are also on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Cunliffe, and carried, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.