

Fairness In Taxes

Meeting Minutes 6-6-14

Attendance: Leo Burke, Bill & Sheila Hartranft, Michael Hinchman, Don Kerns, & Jim Tweed

Meeting opened by Michael Hinchman with Pledge Allegiance at 3:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker – Pete Madden, O.C. Councilman-at-Large

- Pete is closing his second in-completed term on the Ocean City School Board where his focus was on revenue driven projects; School Choice, Districts feeding the school, etc. Would like to do the same as councilman.
- He feels it will take 6-10 months to transition into his new responsibilities and “wrap his head” around the job.
- Not ready just yet to stay his goals; but would like to keep tourists coming and make sure the City is well run.
- He was questioned regarding roads & drainage as well as the Boardwalk and asked if would promote putting the Boardwalk issue on the ballot; answer, perhaps. It was also commented that there is a vocal minority opposed to IPE.
- Jim Tweed commented that the current administration seemed committed to pine; is glad that Pete’s mind is open. At the presentations given by the engineering firms, the IPE supporters were not present and other options are not being considered.
- Michael Hinchman commented as follows:
 1. 3” pine may last longer, but you still have splintering and separation.
 2. Pine just seems to be the best of bad options.
 3. Eco people not properly engaged; did they check on the effect of less IPE for a longer period as opposed to pine which would need to be replaced more frequently; what is that impact on the environment. They should prove their position. Emotions in play, not necessarily facts.
- Pete responded that he believes they want to use what they already have before considering the other alternatives.
- On City staffing he had not yet looked into it.
- Michael Hinchman then commented that they had 2 “Public Safety workshops” that were really nothing more than presentations. Council seems poor on checks and balances and perhaps should carve out the number of officers in the Police Department and perhaps we could do without an extra layer of management. Also, there is a lack of evaluation of crime statistics.
- Jim Tweed asked if one year from now, is there an area you would want to focus on? Answer: I would perhaps like to be a liaison with the School District.
- Overall it was felt by the attendees that the City is not managing the debt properly; should be more long term and less short term financing.
- Pete also commented that he was looking at 10th & Palen project; but was waiting for the report.
- Roads and drainage and infrastructure still need to be addressed but could have an overwhelming cost.

Everyone thanked Pete for speaking with them

F.I.T. Business – Vote for Non-residents

- One member wanted to know if the position was personal a F.I.T position. It was clarified that it was his personal opinion.
- Another member stated that if F.I.T. is not going to fully support non-resident owners, he’s out.

By-Laws – Jim Tweed, Sheila Hartranft

- Jim moved to adopt the amended By-laws, seconded by Sheila and approved by the present quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectively submitted by:

