

## **Fairness In Taxes**

### **Meeting Minutes 9-4-15**

**Board Attendance:** Sheila & Bill Hartranft, Michael Hinchman, Don Kerns, Joe Somerville & Vic Staniec

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

#### **Education – Vic Staniec**

- Repairs to the primary school have been completed on the interior. Items still to be done; rebalancing the heating system, landscaping and some roof work. The cost was \$6.1m covered through reserves, bond & state funding.
- The dome on the high school has been repainted as well as the columns.
- New labor agreement with support staff now in place.
- Teachers' starting salary now the lowest in the state at \$48,000.00 per year dropped from 5<sup>th</sup> place. The average salary is \$94,000.00 per year.
- With regard to School Choice, there is a rumor that state funding for this program will be stopping. Ocean City will not be able to increase the number of students currently at 194. Siblings of choice students were given a priority; that will no longer be the case. There was a complaint from one person but Joe Clark stood his ground. The individual was advised the student could attend but he/she would have to pay the tuition.
- There have been letters criticizing Dr. Taylor from retired teachers which may be a result of her efforts to keep costs down and efficiency up. The newest contract provided less than 2% pay increases; in the past it was 4%. Dr. Taylor has replaced three principals resulting from a search committee and the district is now rated 8 up from 6.
- There is now a new Business Administrator, Tim Kelley.
- Currently in need of a new Athletic Director to replace Chris Lentz. Currently acting is Jack Pfishemayer.
- The school district had three directors; Mikenzie Helphenstine, Co-director of Curriculum; Curt Nath, Co-director of Curriculum; and Matt Carey, Director of Special Services. Mikenzie Helphenstine resigned as Co-director of Curriculum to return to teaching. The three directorships were terminated. Curt Nath was named Director of Academic Services and Matt Carey was named Director of Student Services.
- The school store is being run by special needs students. They also have a "home setup" where the special needs students can learn independent home care.
- Asked about School Board meetings and comments, Vic responded that they follow an agenda but do take questions both on the agenda and off, and when asked to clarify, they do. Asked about committee membership it was explained that members cannot serve on two committees simultaneously.

#### **President's Report – Michael Hinchman**

- Michael suggested inviting members of the Teacher's Association and/or Dr. Taylor as guests for the next FIT meeting.
- With regard to back-bay dredging there does not seem to be any funding available. The beach replenishment funding is 75% Federal, 20% State and 5% City; is there funding for the back bay? Asked Anita Dicks if they could take it up the Tuckahoe River; she responded there was no site close enough to make it viable. Two questions arose; what constitutes an approved dump site? and, Would they be able to spray?

#### **Ocean City Flooding – Bill Hartranft**

- A lot of feedback has come from residents through Facebook and the OCFlood web site and seems to have gotten the city's attention. Can only be a good thing. The latest report from the city calls for a comprehensive, integrated plan. This is what OC Flooding and FIT have been saying all along.

**Secretary 's Report – Sheila Hartranft**

- It's time for another newsletter. Should go out not later than the first week in October. Need articles, hopefully by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- It was commented that the Baker Study should be for the whole island. Need to keep after the city on this issue.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.

Next meeting scheduled for October 2, 2015

Annual meeting tentatively scheduled for November 6, 2015

Respectively submitted by  
Sheila Hartranft  
Secretary