

## **Fairness In Taxes**

### **Meeting Minutes 3-4-16**

**Board Attendance:** Bill & Sheila Hartranft, Don Kerns, Joe Somerville, Vic Staniec & Jim Tweed

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by Bill Hartranft at 3:00 P.M.

#### **Education Report – Vic Staniec**

- Christine Lentz has been indicted for misconduct, Computer Criminal Mischief, and Computer Information Theft.
- 7 Bonds are out in the district at 4-5% interest. The call date for these April 1, 2016. Bonds at 2-3% interest to be called in 2022, but by that time they will be paid, representing a savings of \$175,000 per year or \$1.1m.
- Taxes up by 2/10 of a cent.
- Upper Township owes Ocean City \$1.2m in tuitions.
- The preliminary budget will be completed in March 2016 and the final budget will be presented in April 2016.
- Salaries are at \$32.5m representing 2.5% increase
- Utilities \$1.65m, up 2.55%. Most of this due to new air conditioning in the Primary School though the budget did break even.
- Question on pensions relative to salary? – All pensions are paid by the state.

#### **O.C. Flooding – Eric Sauder**

- New signs were ordered and are available for any resident who wishes one.
- A petition was drawn up to be presented to the administration after all signatures have been gathered. The petition was sent out over the internet via e-mail as well as much word-of-mouth. The response has been very good, with over 250 signatures so far. It will soon go to the media.
- Hoping to have enough signatures to present the petition to the administration at the first April council meeting.
- Jim Mallon has invited the O.C. Flooding committee to a meeting with Baker Engineering regarding the city's flood remediation plan. Should occur by the end of March, but no firm date has been set.
- Jim Tweed asked if everyone will be prepared with the right questions, etc. Eric agreed that was important and that as much information as possible should be gathered.
- A resident asked "what are the solutions, i.e.; bulkheads, storm water system, continued building, zoning? All of the above. Eric feels there should be an island-wide plan for flooding.
- On pumping stations, one is planned for the south end, and one for the north end is already in the budget. They don't yet have permits.
- Jim Tweed also asked what the interaction with city has been regarding the storm water system and the maintenance plan. Eric did get a work order but it was just for clearing and siphoning the drains. They were planning to vacuum them out but the truck needed is out of commission. Also, there is no inventory of check valves or, if the city has a total, they are not saying. Bill Hartranft commented he thought they had a maintenance plan for 40 check valves over the course of a year, but the last one was done in a matter of weeks. What if they are broken or deteriorated?
- Pete Guinosso noted that there are some mosquito trenches, but are they checked? On check valves, maintenance calls for rotation and lubrication but they require more routine maintenance. He also said that the Zoning Board suggests raising homes and tilt ground away from the house; but the water will just affect other nearby homes.

#### **Fairness In Taxes "Ad" Regarding Administration's Actions – Jim Tweed**

- Each bulletin item was reviewed and suggestion made to clarify and confirm the issues. Jim will make the necessary corrections and present the ad to the board at a later date.

**Candidates “Meet & Greet”**

- Jim Tweed made a motion for Fairness In Taxes to host a “Meet & Greet” with all candidates running for election and re-election to City Council in May. Seconded by Bill Hartranft, motioned carried with the caveat that those members present would present the motion to Michael Hinchman for final approval.
- He also noted that the Republican Club was sponsoring a debate scheduled for March 8, 2016.
- Sheila Hartranft reminded those present that we would only have 4-6 weeks to organize the “Meet & Greet”.

**Coastal Cottages & Flanders Hotel – Pete Guinosso**

- The plan for the newest coastal cottages has been rescinded. One plan was filed but was not presented. He noted that the language had changed between the one that had passed and the latest one. Council indicated that needed to make minor changes; but, “what does that mean?”.
- The Flanders Hotel parking lot is on the back burner.

Adjourned 4:35 P.M.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2016, 6:30 P.M., Candidates “Meet & Greet”.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sheila Hartranft, Secretary