

May 11, 2011

A Special Joint Meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee and Lafayette Township School Administration was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00pm. in the Municipal Building, 33 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, NJ.

Members Present	Mayor Sweeney, Committeemen Hughes, Corcoran, D'Angeli and Bruning
Members Absent	None
Also Present	Clerk Fedish, Interim Superintendent Bob McCann, Board Administrator Hessler Board Members: Rich Poshkus, Andy Frye, Linda Peoples, Karen Macko, Tom Numann, Peggy Pack, (Absent: Anne Sellenger, Matt Busanic, Tracy Mustachio)

Mayor Sweeney opened the meeting stating it was being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Mayor Sweeney stated the Township Committee has reviewed the defeated budget and recommended the following cuts:

\$16,000	- Special Ed Tuition
<u>5,700</u>	- Tuition Reimbursement
\$21,700	

At this time, Mayor Sweeney opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Ken Harrington, Warbasse Junction Road, said he has resided in Lafayette Township for 27 years; and his taxes have increased each year. He said the senior citizens have not received a cost of living increase for the past three (3) years and may need to leave as people cannot afford to live in the Township and some cannot even sell their homes. He has been retired for four (4) years and is doing more with less.

Mr. Harrington said he has two (2) daughters that attended Lafayette Township School and received a good, quality education. He said that in 1990, 217 students were enrolled in the school; and there were 18 teachers. Now the enrollment has increased a little; but there are 31 teachers. Mr. Harrington noted that education is very important; but it is getting to the point of his not being able to live here because of the taxes.

With there being no further comments from the public, Mayor Sweeney closed the public portion of the meeting.

Committeeman Hughes said control is needed noting the 3.75% increase in the contract is substantially above the cost of living and average increases. He requested the Board of Education carefully review upcoming contracts and not let this trend continue. He urged the teachers to, also, consider this. Committeeman Hughes said the Township only had an increase of 1.5% for the past two (2) years. He noted the school administration did freeze their salaries for the past two (2) years and thanked them.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bruning, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, DETERMINING AND CERTIFYING AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED FOR SCHOOL TAXES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, in the 2011 annual school election in the Township of Lafayette, the majority of the voters rejected the amounts proposed in the Budget for the Lafayette Township School for the school year 2011-2012 for the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 and the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA), the Township Committee, having thoroughly reviewed the budget and related information as presented by the Board of

Education and, after consultation with the Board of Education and administration of the Lafayette Township School, has determined the amounts which, in the judgment of the Township Committee, are necessary to be appropriated for each item appearing in such Budget to provide a thorough and efficient education in the school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette that it hereby be certified to the Sussex County Board of Taxation the total of the amounts so determined to be necessary to be raised by taxes for the 2011-2012 school year for the Lafayette Township School. Said amounts to be raised are considered by the Township Committee to be sufficient to provide for a thorough and efficient educational system and maintain financial stability given the need for long term planning and budgeting. Those amounts are as follows:

General Fund:

- a. Original tax levy on ballot: \$3,633,000.00
- b. Amount of reduction: 21,700.00
- c. Amount of tax levy being certified by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette: \$3,611,300.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underlying determinations and supporting reasons of the Township Committee for its reductions in the Lafayette Township School Budget for 2011-2012 and the decrease in the tax levy are as follows; and

ALSO, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded no later than May 19, 2011 to:

- a. Lafayette Township Board of Education
- b. Sussex County Board of Taxation
- c. Lafayette Township Tax Assessor
- d. Sussex County Superintendent of Schools (2 copies)

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Description</u>
11-000-100-562	\$16,000	\$236,234	\$220,234	Special Ed Tuition
Reason: Extra placement not needed.				
11-000-291-280	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$0	Tuition Reimburse.
Reason: Excessive.				
Total Reduction	\$21,700			

Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Lafayette Township Board of Education Resolution:

Motion by Richard Poshkus, seconded by Linda Peoples, to accept Lafayette Township's reduction recommendation of \$21,700. Motion carried by roll call vote: Macko-Yes, Peoples-yes, Poshkus-yes, Numann-yes, Pack-yes, Frye-yes.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business, motion by Hughes, seconded by Bruning, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA ROSE FEDISH, RMC  
Municipal Clerk