

August 2, 2011

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. 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, CFO Magura, Road Foreman Macko, Attorney Kurnos

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

Senior of the Year Presentation - Mrs. Alice J. Demarest presented the Lafayette 2011 Senior of the Year Award to Alex Everitt, Jr.

Minutes - Motion by Corcoran, seconded by Bruning, to accept and place on file the minutes of July 5, 2011. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Reports

Tax Collector - For July 2011

Prior Year Taxes	\$2,125.12
Current Year Taxes	\$86,136.94
Prepaid Taxes – 2012	\$31,763.89
Interest	\$3,963.84
Total	\$123,989.79

Motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Corcoran, to accept the Tax Collector's report as submitted. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Treasurer

Cash Report for July 2011

Cash Balances as of June 30, 2011	\$1,806,621.81
Cash Receipts for July 2011	\$162,368.93
Total	\$1,968,990.74
Cash Disbursements for July 2011	\$454,206.41
Cash Balances as of July 31, 2011	\$1,514,784.33
Account Balances as of July 31, 2011	
Current – Checking	\$159,722.39
Capital – Checking	\$666,533.48
Escrow – Checking	\$70,865.97
COAH-Developers Fees	\$128,022.33
Open Space Municipal Tax	\$324,033.76
Trust Accounts for Developer's Agreements	\$144,093.15
Special Rec. – Checking	\$9,011.22
Special Donations	\$7,544.48
Dog Trust Account	\$4,957.55
Total Account Balances	\$1,514,784.33

Motion by Corcoran, seconded by D'Angeli, to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Animal Control Officer

Month of July 2011	<u>This Month</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Total Deposits	\$64.00	\$6,933.00
Amount Paid to State of New Jersey	\$9.60	\$1,023.60

Licenses Sold	3	542
Kennel Licenses Sold	0	2
Dogs Picked Up	0	2
Cats Picked Up	1	4
Dogs Taken to Pound	0	3
Cats Taken to Pound	1	4
Dogs Redeemed	0	3
Cats Redeemed	0	0
Miscellaneous (Kennel Licenses)	0	\$50.00
Late Fees Collected	\$25.00	\$585.00
Lost Tags	0	\$2.00

Motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Hughes, to accept and place on file the ACO's report as submitted. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Committee Reports

Fire House Well - Bruning reported the engineer, Darren Tewes, met with the NJDEP in Trenton and delivered the manufacturer's information for the system. Anticipating approval on August 10, 2011.

Streets and Roads - D'Angeli reviewed the Road Foreman's report. A letter was received from a resident regarding a drop off on Day Road. D'Angeli & Road Foreman Macko will inspect the road.

Auction Surplus - Road Foreman Macko will make a list of equipment that can be auctioned for the Township Committee's review.

Affordable Housing - Hughes reported Advance Housing has five (5) residents. The funding for the second ten (10) units is continuing. They are anticipating approval in September.

Emergency Management - Hughes reported a planning meeting for services at Advance Housing will be held in August or September.

Fire House Boiler - Hughes reported the paperwork is being worked on for tax exemption; and the boiler will be installed soon.

Land Use Board - Corcoran reported Beaver Run Solar Farm is continuing to be heard.

Board of Health - Corcoran reported there was no quorum for the July meeting; and the next scheduled meeting will be held in October. Mr. Dave Muscalo, Board of Health President, said there was a quorum at that meeting; however, there was a misunderstanding about the number of people needed. They only need four (4), not five (5).

EMS - Corcoran reviewed three (3) months of logged calls. Motion by Corcoran, seconded by D'Angeli, to approve Matthew Decker as a full member of the Township EMS. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Fire Department - Sweeney reviewed the report. He stated Joshua Maat and Patrick McGuinness are now Eagle Scouts. Letters of congratulations will be sent.

Correspondence

- a. From Land Use Board re: Outdoor Dining Ordinance Revisions
- b. From Kenneth Davis re: Fox Hill Road Vacation
- c. Frankford Township Ordinances:
 1. Amend Land Use Code to add Bed and Breakfast
 2. Amend Chapter 30-1027.2 to Permit Accessory Dwelling Units
 3. Amend Comprehensive Land Use Ordinances

Vouchers

AGRA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	180.00
ANNA ROSE FEDISH	44.74
AQUATIC ANALYSTS, INC.	175.00
BANISCH ASSOCIATES, INC.	338.00
CENTURY LINK	421.30
CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	32.67
CHELBUS CLEANING CO., INC.	275.00
CINTAS CORP #111	218.64
DELUXE INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS INC.	74.98
DEPTCOR	468.00
FINCH FUEL OIL CO., INC.	1,481.45
FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP	28,678.94
HIGH POINT REG HIGH SCHOOL	449,100.83
JCP & L	1,583.65
LADDEY, CLARK & RYAN, LLP	1,635.00
LAFAYETTE ASPHALT	571.04
LAFAYETTE AUTO PARTS SUPPLY, LLC	239.25
LAFAYETTE TWP BD OF ED	534,337.50
MARYPAUL LABORATORIES INC.	220.00
MERKIN EQUIPMENT	626.00
MGL PRINTING SOLUTIONS	84.00
MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY CO.	173.41
NEWTON TROPHY & SPORTS CENTER, LLC	27.42
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING	35.00
SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TV	17.00
SPRINT	298.91
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	240.79
TC/TREAS ASSOC OF NJ	29.00
THE NEW JERSEY HERALD	955.15
TREASURER, S/NJ	75.00
TREASURER, S/NJ	1,068.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	500.00
US POSTAL SERVICE	190.00
NJSHBP	10,806.63
HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	58.05
McGOWAN LLC	225.00
BANISCH ASSOCIATES, INC.	2,587.00
FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.	131.25
LADDEY, CLARK & RYAN, LLP	1,556.29
GEDDIS SIGN STUDIO, INC.	900.00
NJ DEPT. OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES	9.60

Motion by D’Angeli, seconded by Corcoran, to pay the bills on the Bills List. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D’Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Old Business

Fox Hill Road Vacation - Mayor Sweeney opened the public hearing on the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO RELEASE AND EXTINGUISH THE RIGHT OF THE PUBLIC ON A PORTION OF FOX HILL ROAD

John Ursin, Esq.

Charlie Shotmeyer, Owner Beaver Run Farms

Mr. Ursin said he has spoken to Mr. Emil Conforth, adjoining property owner; and there are no problems with the road vacation. The earthen berm at the upper portion of Fox Hill Road will be removed and be replaced with a gate. The other adjoining property owner is able to access his Lafayette property from his Wantage portion as there is access off Spreen Road.

With there being no other public comments, Mayor Sweeney closed this portion of the meeting.

Motion by D’Angeli, seconded by Corcoran to adopt the Fox Hill Road vacation ordinance. Attorney Kurnos asked about the easement to the Township. Mr. Ursin said this is to be completed within a week. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D’Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Mountain Ridge Estates/Hidden Valley - Bruning asked if the bond is sufficient to finish the balance of the project and there was an escrow balance. Attorney Kurnos feels the bond is sufficient as it has not been reduced; and there is escrow available to cover the inspection fees. Kurnos suggested the Township Engineer inspect the project and complete a cost estimate. He said the developer should agree to a lien on the last two (2) properties to pay for the improvements. This issue will be carried to the next meeting on September 6, 2011.

SCMUA - Hughes reported the SCMUA representatives will attend the Township meeting to be held on September 20, 2011 to give a status report. The Clerk was asked to notify the residents.

New Business

Preservation Raffle License - Motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Corcoran, to approve a raffle license for Lafayette Center Preservation Foundation for December 10, 2011 and waive the local fee. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Pay-to-Play Ordinance - Motion by Hughes, seconded by Corcoran, to introduce the following ordinance and set the public hearing for September 6, 2011:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THAT A BUSINESS ENTITY WHICH MAKES POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES AND MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY POLITICAL PARTIES IN EXCESS OF CERTAIN THRESHOLDS SHALL BE LIMITED IN ITS ABILITY TO RECEIVE PUBLIC CONTRACTS FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX

The Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette does hereby ordain:

WHEREAS, large political contributions from those seeking or performing contracts with a municipality raise reasonable concerns on the part of taxpayers and residents as to their trust in government and its business practices; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, a municipality is authorized to adopt such ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws as necessary and proper for good government, as well as the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L.2005, c.271 (codified at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-51) a municipality is authorized to adopt by ordinance, measures limiting the awarding of public contracts to business entities that have made political contributions, and limiting the contributions that the recipient of such a contract can make during the term of a contract; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of good government, the people and the government of the Township of Lafayette desire to establish a policy that will avoid the perception of improper influence in public contracting and local elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the Township of Lafayette to create such a regulation which states that a Business Entity which makes political contributions to municipal candidates and municipal and county political parties in excess of certain thresholds shall be limited in its ability to receive public contracts from the Township of Lafayette.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township of Lafayette, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

DEFINITIONS

As used in this ordinance:

(a) "Campaign Committee" means (i) every candidate for Lafayette Township elective municipal office; (ii) every candidate committee established by or for the benefit of a candidate for Lafayette Township elective municipal office; (iii) every joint candidate committee established in whole or in part by or for the benefit of a candidate for Lafayette Township elective municipal office; (iv) every political party committee of the Township of Lafayette; (v) every political party committee of the County of Sussex; and (vi) every political committee, continuing political committee, or other form of association or organization that regularly engages in the support of candidates for the Lafayette Township municipal or Sussex County elective offices or Lafayette Township municipal or Sussex County political parties or political party committees. The terms in the foregoing paragraph have the meaning prescribed in N.J.A.C. 19:25-1.7.

(b) "Contribution" has the meaning prescribed in N.J.A.C. 19:25-1.7. By way of illustration, and not limitation, this definition includes pledges, loans, and in-kind contributions.

(c) A "contract for professional or extraordinary services" means all contracts for "professional services" and "extraordinary unspecifiable services" as such term is used in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

(d) For purposes of this Ordinance, a "Business Entity" whose contributions are regulated by this ordinance means: (i) an individual including the individual's spouse, and any child/children; (ii) a firm; corporation; professional corporation; partnership; limited liability company; organization; association; and any other manner and kind of business entity; (iii) any person who owns 10% or more of the equity or ownership or income interests in a person or entity as defined in sections (i) and (ii) above and their spouses and child/children; (iv) all partners or officers of such an entity, in the aggregate, and their spouses and child/children; (v) any person, subcontractor, subsidiary, corporation, firm, partnership, limited liability company, organization or association who has received or indefeasibly acquired the right to receive, from a person described in subparagraph (i) above, more than \$100,000.00 in compensation or income of any kind (including, by way of illustration, and not limitation: wages, salaries, sums paid to independent contractors, benefits, dividends, profit-sharing, pension contributions, deferred contributions, stock, stock options or gifts), in any twelve (12) month period prior to the award of, or during the term of, a contract subject to this ordinance; and (vi) all persons who are an "affiliate" of a Business Entity as defined in sections (i), (ii) and (v) above, as such term is used in 11 U.S.C. 101(2).

SECTION 1 – PROHIBITION ON AWARDING PUBLIC CONTRACTS TO CERTAIN CONTRIBUTORS

(a) To the extent that it is not inconsistent with state or federal law, the Township of Lafayette and any of its departments, instrumentalities or purchasing agents shall not enter into any agreement or otherwise contract to procure "professional services" as such term is defined at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6) and used at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) and/or banking, insurance or other consulting service (hereinafter "Professional Services"), nor "extraordinary unspecified services" as such term is defined at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(7) and used at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii) and/or media, public relations, lobbying, parking garage management or other consulting and/or management service (hereinafter "Extraordinary Unspecified Services") from any Business Entity if such Business Entity has solicited or made any Contribution to (i) a candidate, candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in Lafayette Township or a holder of public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, or (ii) to any Lafayette Township or Sussex County political committee or political party committee, or (iii) to any continuing political committee or political action committee that regularly engages in the support of Lafayette Township municipal or Sussex County elections and/or Lafayette Township municipal or Sussex County candidates, candidate committees, joint candidate committees, political committees, political parties, political party committees, (hereinafter "PAC"), in excess of the thresholds specified in subsection (g) within one calendar year immediately preceding the date of the contract or agreement.

(b) No Business Entity who submits a proposal for, enters into negotiations for, or agrees to any contract or agreement with the Township of Lafayette or any of its departments or instrumentalities, for the rendition of Professional Services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services shall knowingly solicit or make any Contribution, to (i) a candidate, candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in Lafayette Township, or a holder of public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, or (ii) to any Lafayette Township or Sussex County political committee or political party committee, or (iii) any PAC between the time of first communication between that Business Entity and the municipality regarding a specific agreement for Professional Services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services, and the later of the termination of negotiations or rejection of any proposal, or the completion of the performance or specified time period of that contract or agreement.

(c) The monetary thresholds of this Ordinance are: (i) a maximum of \$300 per calendar year each for any purpose to any candidate or candidate committee for mayor or governing body, or \$500 per calendar year to any joint candidates committee for mayor or governing body, or \$300 per calendar year to a political committee or political party committee of the Township of Lafayette; (ii) \$500 maximum per calendar year to a

Sussex County political committee or political party committee; and (iii) \$500 maximum per calendar year to any PAC. However, for each Business Entity party to a contract for Professional or Extraordinary Unspecified Services as defined in subparagraph (a), or engaged in negotiations for a contract defined in subparagraph (a), when such Business Entity's Contribution is aggregated with all "persons" defined in subparagraph (d) of "Definitions" above, by virtue of their affiliation to that Business Entity party, a maximum of \$2,500 to all Lafayette Township candidates, candidate committees, joint candidate committees, and holders of public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, all Lafayette Township or Sussex County political committees and political party committees as described herein combined, without violating subsection (a) of this section.

(d) For purposes of this section, the office that is considered to have ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract shall be (i) the Lafayette Township Mayor or Governing body, if the contract requires approval or appropriation from the Mayor or Governing body, or (ii) the Mayor of the Township of Lafayette, if the contract requires approval of the Mayor, or if a public officer who is responsible for the award of a contract is appointed by the Mayor.

(e) Rules regarding subcontractors. No person may be awarded a subcontract to perform under a contract subject to this Ordinance, if the subcontractor would be disqualified by paragraph (a) from receiving the contract at the time that the subcontract is awarded. Nor may any person who would be disqualified by paragraph (a) from receiving the contract perform substantially all of obligations described in a contract for professional or extraordinary services that is subject to this ordinance.

SECTION 2 - CONTRIBUTIONS MADE PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE

No Contribution or solicitation of contributions made prior to the effective date of this Ordinance shall be deemed to give rise to a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3 - CONTRACT RENEWAL

No contract subject to this ordinance may be renewed, extended, or materially modified unless the resulting renewal, extension, or modification would be allowable under the provisions of this ordinance if it were an initial contract.

SECTION 4 - CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT BY BUSINESS ENTITY

(a) Prior to awarding any contract or agreement to procure Professional Services" or Extraordinary Unspecified Services" from any Business Entity, the Township of Lafayette or its purchasing agents and departments, as the case may be, shall receive a sworn statement from said Business Entity which is the intended recipient of said contract that he/she/it has not made a Contribution in violation of Section 1 of this Ordinance. The Township of Lafayette, its purchasing agents and departments shall be responsible for informing the Lafayette Township Committee that the aforementioned sworn statement has been received and that the Business Entity is not in violation of this ordinance, prior to awarding the contract or agreement.

(b) A Business Entity shall have a continuing duty to report to the Township of Lafayette any Contributions that constitute a violation of this act that are made during the negotiation, proposal process or the duration of a contract. The Township of Lafayette, its purchasing agents and departments shall be responsible for informing the governing body within ten (10) business days after receipt of said report from the Business Entity, or at the next Lafayette Township Committee meeting following receipt of said report from the Business Entity, or whichever comes first.

(c) The certification required under this subsection shall be made prior to entry into the contract or agreement with the Township of Lafayette, or prior to the provision of services or goods, as the case may be, and shall be in addition to any other certifications that may be required by any other provision of law.

SECTION 5 - RETURN OF EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS

A Business Entity that is a party to a contract for Professional Services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services may cure a violation of Section 1 of this Ordinance, if, within 30 days after the date on which the applicable ELEC report is published, said Business Entity notifies the municipality in writing and seeks and receives reimbursement of the Contribution from the recipient of such Contribution.

SECTION 6 - EXEMPTIONS

The contribution limitations prior to entering into a contract in Section 1(a) do not apply to contracts which (i) are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefor within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4, or (ii) are awarded in the case of emergency under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6. There is no exemption

for contracts awarded pursuant to a "Fair and Open Process" under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20 et seq.

SECTION 7 - PENALTY

(a) It shall be a material breach of the terms of a Lafayette Township agreement or contract for Professional Services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services when a Business Entity that is a party to such agreement or contract has: (i) made or solicited a Contribution in violation of this Ordinance; (ii) knowingly concealed or misrepresented a Contribution given or received; (iii) made or solicited Contributions through intermediaries for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the source of the Contribution; (iv) made or solicited any Contribution on the condition or with the agreement that it will be re-contributed to a candidate, candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in Lafayette Township, or a holder of public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, or any Lafayette Township or Sussex County political committee or political party committee, or any PAC; (v) engaged or employed a lobbyist or consultant with the intent or understanding that such lobbyist or consultant would make or solicit any Contribution, which if made or solicited by the professional Business Entity itself, would subject that entity to the restrictions of this Ordinance; (vi) funded contributions made by third parties, including consultants, attorneys, family members, and employees; (vii) engaged in any exchange of Contributions to circumvent the intent of this Ordinance; or (viii) directly or indirectly, through or by any other person or means, done any act which if done directly would subject that entity to the restrictions of this Ordinance.

(b) Furthermore, any Business Entity that violates Section 7 (a) (i-viii) shall be disqualified from eligibility for future Township of Lafayette contracts for a period of four (4) calendar years from the date of the violation.

(c) Any person who knowingly, purposely, or recklessly violates any provision of this ordinance, or who conspires with another person to violate any provision of this ordinance, or who, with the purpose of promoting or facilitating a violation of this ordinance, solicits another person to commit it, or aids or agrees, or attempts to aid another person in planning or committing it, shall be subject to punishment including fines and/or imprisonment as fixed by law for violations of the ordinances of the Township of Lafayette.

SECTION 8 - CITIZENS PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION

In addition to any rights that were heretofore available, or which may hereafter be available, to citizens, taxpayers, or associations, to challenge violations of this ordinance, every person aggrieved by a violation of the ordinance, or any taxpayer or resident of the Township of Lafayette has the right, consistent with the Rules of Court, to file charges in a court of competent jurisdiction, and/or to pursue a civil action for a violation of this ordinance in a court of competent jurisdiction, and to seek and obtain declaratory, injunctive, or other legal or equitable relief, including but not limited to, attorneys fees and costs, arising from or related to a violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 9 - SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 10 – INDEXING

The monetary thresholds of “Definitions” Section (d) and Section 1(c) of this ordinance shall be increased effective March 1 of each calendar year by the percentage increase, in the prior calendar year, of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the New York-Northern New Jersey region, rounded to the nearest \$10.00. The Clerk of the Township of Lafayette shall, by no later than April 1 of each calendar year, prepare and publish the revised thresholds on the official municipal website and in an official municipal newspaper.

SECTION 11 - REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 12 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days following the final adoption thereof by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette and shall be published as required by law.

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

Best Practices Checklist - The checklist was reviewed and approved by the Township Committee.

Bill from Charlie Clink & Sons - Motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Corcoran, to deny payment of bill for \$780 for the fire house well as Mr. Clink was performing these duties as a member of the Lafayette Township Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Tax Assessor Conference - Motion by Bruning, seconded by D'Angeli, to approve the Tax Assessor, Maureen Kaman, attending a conference on August 31, 2011 and the League Convention on November 16, 2011. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Sweeney-yes.

Audience

Mr. Joe Camerata, EMS Member, said the squad sold a rig to another squad for \$5,000. They purchased a newer, used rig with less mileage with the \$5,000 and other funds. Mr. Camerata said EMS lost their tax exempt status due to paperwork not being done; and they are not getting far with the accountant. Committeeman Corcoran will pursue this.

Mr. Dave Muscalo, Voight Lane, said his tax bill increase ten (10%) percent; and he noticed that 70% is going to the schools. Mr. Muscalo suggested financial options. Committeeman Bruning the Township Committee only reviews the schools' budgets when they are not passed by the voters. The Township Committee has no jurisdictions over the budgets. Committeeman D'Angeli suggested Mr. Muscalo attend a Board of Education meeting and present his suggestions. Committeeman Hughes said Lafayette was granted to be a school of choice distract by the State; and funds are being received for one (1) student and two (2) are pending.

A gentleman in the audience asked about the assessment on the Merck property. Committeeman Bruning said the assessment was reduced because the property is not being utilized. Committeeman Hughes explained the Township appealed to the Sussex County Tax Board last year for an in-house revaluation and was denied. The Township, also, appealed to the State, with the help of our legislatures, for aid; however, the Township did not meet the criteria for the aid.

Mr. Camerata asked if there is a possible purchaser. Committeeman Hughes said the Township is working with the County Economic Development department. He said the facilities are being maintained; and security is present.

Mrs. Alice J. Demarest, Fox Hill Road, said there is an abandoned house (#50) on Fox Hill Road; and she is concerned as she does not know what is being dumped on the property. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Health Department for an inspection.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA ROSE FEDISH, RMC
Municipal Clerk