

May 15, 2012

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 33 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, NJ

Members Present: Mayor Corcoran, Committeemen Hughes, Henderson, D'Angeli and Bruning

Members Absent None

Also Present: Clerk Fedish, CFO Magura, Road Foreman Macko, Attorney Kurnos

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

**Minutes** - Motion by Henderson, seconded by Hughes, to accept and place on file the minutes of May 1, 2012. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

### Reports

#### Treasurers Report

Cash Report for April 2012	
Cash Balances as of March 31, 2012	\$1,998,310.82
Cash Receipts for April 2012	\$675,804.63
Total	\$2,674,115.45
Cash Disbursements for April 2012	\$1,089,640.93
Cash Balances as of April 30, 2012	\$1,584,474.52
Account Balances as of April 30, 2012	
Current – Checking	\$27,816.23
Capital – Checking	\$893,805.80
Escrow – Checking	\$58,278.13
COAH-Developers Fees	\$131,072.56
Open Space Municipal Tax	\$311,233.80
Trust Accounts for Developer's Agreements	\$140,665.338
Special Rec. – Checking	\$7,906.46
Special Donations	\$7,544.48
Dog Trust Account	\$6,151.73
Total Account Balances	\$1,584,474.52

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

#### Committee Reports

**Fire House Well** - Bruning reported the water test results came back negative; and the new well is being used.

**Streets and Roads** - D'Angeli reviewed the Road Foreman's report. D'Angeli reported the pedestrian crossing signs cost approximately \$300.00 each. Due to the cost and the placement of such signs being a safety issue, it was the consensus of the Committee not to order the signs.

**Affordable Housing** - Hughes reported the Township will lose \$54,000 of COAH development fees to the State if it is not dedicated to a project. More will be lost in October if not, also, dedicated to a project. Hughes reported there has no interest for residential rehab.

Hughes reported he has been in contact with SCARC regarding a new home being constructed which the Township may be able to contribute funds. Hughes will continue talking with SCARC on this issue.

**Emergency Management** - Hughes reported the final package for the October storm has been signed. However, more data is needed for the hurricane damage. Approximately \$19,800 is being anticipated to be refunded for the October storm.

**Route 15-Meadows/Morris Farm Roads Light** - Hughes reported he will continue to follow up on this issue with the NJDOT. The timing of the light is being inspected.

**Fire Department** - Henderson reported the subcommittee is continuing work on the guidelines (SOG) for the incident command vehicle.

**Open Space (OSAC)** - Attorney Kurnos updated the Committee on the Lawler property.

**EMS** - Corcoran reviewed the March and April 2012 reports.

Captain Ron Decker explained the EMS has voted to become separated from the Fire Department; and a new charter was drawn up by the Township Attorney. Motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Bruning, to approve the charter separating the EMS from the Fire Department.

Mr. John Strowe, EMS member, stated the new charter was not voted on, just that they would separate from the Fire Department. Committeeman D'Angeli withdrew his motion; and this issue will be tabled to the next meeting on June 6, 2012 to allow further review by the EMS.

#### **Correspondence**

a. From Mary Carroll, SCARC re: Cleaning services

Due to the cost, the Township Committee will not be hiring SCARC for building cleaning services.

b. From Hardyston Township re: Sale of Homestead Nursing Home

c. Sandyston Township resolution supporting military employment initiative program

d. Stillwater Township resolution supporting Open Space PILOT Funding

e. From NJ Legislature re: Energy Tax Receipts & Resolution

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

#### **SUPPORTING S-1900/A-2921 FOR PHASED-IN FUNDING RESTORATION**

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities; and when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities lost \$331million in combined Energy Tax and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) funding in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010 and 2011 while, also, being denied scheduled incremental funding; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these cuts, in a number of municipalities, property taxes are higher now despite the fact that they are spending less, proving that the State's diversion of tax relief funding has overwhelmed local efforts to reduce property taxes; and

WHEREAS, S-1900, sponsored by Senators Paul Sarlo and Linda Greenstein, and A-2921, sponsored by Assemblyman Troy Singleton, would phase-in, over five (5) years, the restoration of \$331 million in municipal property tax relief funding and ensure that each municipality will be restored to the 2007 (SFY 2008) ETR/CMPTRA level; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors recognize that the loss of those revenues has led to increased property taxes and has hampered local efforts to meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors agree that the time has come to begin to restore to local budgets the millions that were cut to meet State needs in FY 2009, 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of \$66.2 million this year is a great first step, which should be easily manageable in a budget that is slated to grow to \$32.15 billion in the coming year; and the restoration of \$331 million, in 20% increments over five (5) years, will make a big difference in municipalities all around New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the bill would apply the protection of the “poison pill” to the SFY 2012 distribution of CMPTRA funding, which will prevent further shifts of CMPTRA funding and which will help to further restore the appetites of future State policy makers for these municipal property tax relief resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette salutes the sponsors for listening to the Mayors in their districts and all around New Jersey and for advancing this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lafayette Township Committee enthusiastically supports S-1900/A-2921 together with any refinements that may be needed to account for any recent changes in the statutes governing local budgets in order to provide municipalities with appropriate budgetary flexibility.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Department of Community Affairs Acting Commission Richard Constable, our State Senator Steven Oroho, our Assemblyman Gary Chiusano, our Assemblywoman Alison McHose and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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

**Vouchers**

AIRGAS EAST	82.67
ALLEGRA MARKETING	496.00
ALLIED OIL LLC	845.70
AQUATIC ANALYSTS, INC.	60.00
CENTURY LINK	494.53
CHELBUS CLEANING CO., INC.	275.00
CINTAS CORP #111	256.28
D. LOVENBERG'S PORTABLE TOILET	130.00
DECKER'S FIRE & SAFETY	20.00
FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.	130.00
FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP	14,394.58
HAMPTON BODY WORKS	380.83
HIGH POINT REG HIGH SCHOOL	209,983.84
JCP&L	1,481.46
LADDEY, CLARK & RYAN, LLP	720.00
LAFAYETTE AUTO PARTS SUPPLY LLC	197.74
LAFAYETTE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION	957.08
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP TRUST	44,369.67
LAFAYETTE TWP BD OF ED	300,950.00
MGL PRINTING SOLUTIONS	32.00
MICROSYSTEMS-NJ.COM, LLC	1,200.00
MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY CO.	534.10
MUNIDEX, INC.	239.15
NEWTON TROPHY & SPORTS CENTER, LLC	27.93
NISIVOCCIA & COMPANY LLP	6,020.00
NJ CHAPTER APWA	60.00
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING	35.00
OLD DOMINION BRUSH	301.09
POLOWY STONE & MASON	63.00
ROY E. KURNOS	1,274.00
SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TV	17.00
SPRINT	141.70
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	479.76
THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY	2,625.00
THE NEW JERSEY HERALD	145.50
TIRE KING	85.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	500.00
VISION SUPPLY INC.	215.05
W. JIROUX	620.12
WARD'S FLOWERS AND GIFTS	90.89
WEISENBACH SPECIALTY PRINTING	125.14
ACE WELL & PUMP LLC	6,500.00

AGRA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	1,092.00
GARDEN STATE PLUMBING & HEATING	1,050.00
HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	444.13
MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY CO.	177.71
VERES ELECTRICAL SERVICE INC.	548.04
FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.	2,497.50
LADDEY, CLARK & RYAN, LLP	660.00
ND ENGINEERING, LLC	2,193.00
NJ DEPT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES	9.00

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

**Old Business**

**Accident & Health Insurance for Fire Dept. & EMS** - Due to the cost of the supplemental insurance not being included in this year's budget, this will not be purchased. The issue will be reviewed at the end of the year for next year's budget.

**Tax Appeal Expert** - It was the consensus of the Township Committee that Michael Holenstein be retained for the Olde Lafayette Village tax appeal.

**New Business**

**Cancel Old Escrow Accounts Resolution** - Motion by Bruning, seconded by D'Angeli, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, certain Developer Escrow balances remain, and every attempt has been made to return said balances,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be returned to Surplus,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, New Jersey, that the following unexpended and dedicated balances of the Escrow Trust Account be now canceled;

<u>Escrow Account</u>	<u>Amount Canceled</u>
Kabokow, Edwin	\$ 414.00
Mitchell, Steve	\$ 533.92
Paramont Homes	\$2,000.00
Schneider	\$ 890.26
T.E.L. Builders	\$2,580.96
Vogel – Nextel –ATT	\$ 60.69
Wildwood Estates	\$1,890.00
Korins, Leopold & Karen	\$ 22.46
Ascrow	\$ 872.38
Black & Veatch	\$ 259.16
DKS	\$ 140.00
Total Escrows Canceled	\$9,663.83

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

**Sign Ordinance** - D'Angeli suggested amending the sign ordinance for neon signs for businesses. Corcoran said the Land Use Board will be addressing this issue at their next meeting. Hughes said the business owners are, also, asking for signs for special occasions. The size and duration of display will be discussed.

**Open Space (OSAC)** - Motion by Henderson, seconded by D'Angeli, to pay the outstanding bills owed JM Sorge, Inc. for the work on the Lawler property. Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Animal Control** - D'Angeli reported Mrs. Pizzulo is inputting license information into the computer. He said the services of the new Animal Control Officer has already been used; and two (2) summonses have been issued.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business, motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Henderson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNAROSE FEDISH, RMC  
Municipal Clerk