

The Council Retreat of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey was called to order by the Mayor at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Levine read the following statement: “In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Council Retreat of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and by faxing to the officially designated newspapers, a notice indicating that the Council Retreat would take place at the Community Center at 12:00 p.m. on February 4, 2007. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.”

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Present: Ms. Danile, Ms. Eberle, Mayor Levine, Mr. McKenzie, Deputy Mayor Ritchie, Mr. Sumter, Mr. Vassanella (Arrived at 12:17 p.m.)

Absent: Mr. Regan

Also Present: Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk; Vandana Khurana, Chief Finance Officer; Joyce Miller, Purchasing Administrator; Bonnie von Ohlen, Grants Coordinator; Carol Langone, Collector of Revenue; Vincent Lupo, Community Development Director; Thomas Zilinek, Township Engineer; Carl Hauck, Assistant Township Engineer; Mark Healey, Planner; Alice Osipowitz, Recreation Director and Burnham Hobbs, Tax Assessor.

All present participated in the pledge of allegiance.

### *Financial Forecast*

Township Manager Kenneth W. Daly reported that the Appellate Division of Superior Court has thrown out the Coalition on Affordable Housing Rules finding them too lenient. As a result of this ruling, Franklin Township will have to redo its Fair Share Plan and provide more affordable housing. The ruling took a harsh stance on adult communities and the method of “locking children out”. He explained that the percentage of senior housing will decrease from 50 to 25. He reported that there is legislation introduced to delete regional contribution agreements.

Mr. Daly discussed taxes in relation to the state. He reported there would be a 4% cap on the tax levy. He explained that this would impact the library tax since it is tied to the assessed value. If it stays within cap, it will put the squeeze on other parts of the levy. He spoke of the 20% refund from the State, noting there are many unanswered questions and there is no plan to pay for it after this year – no long term plan.

Mr. Daly spoke of the housing market and the decrease in sales and construction. He reported that the applications for age-restricted housing has slowed down – the only building going on is what is contracted for. He reported there is pressure for infill development. He spoke of the preservation of the Suydam Farm.

Mr. Daly reported on the following in connection with the Township’s financial forecast:

- Hotels are being sold or being converted to other uses
- MetLife Building and the vacant Merrill Lynch Building
- Skating Rink at the corner of Easton Avenue/World’s Fair Drive
- Staybridge Lawsuit
- Police and Fire Interoperable ability communication
- Provide Fire companies with the next step of the trunked radio system
- Continuing with the County dispatch
- Redevelopment Projects – Somerset-Douglas

- Amending the Redevelopment Plan (Leewood and RPM Projects)
- Second Hamilton Street Special Improvement Budget
- Question of Tax Assessor re-instituting annual reassessment

Mr. Daly spoke of the following issues that would be facing Council:

- Redoing the Fair Share Plan
- 2008 Budget
- Active Recreation – Middlebush Park; a park in the southern section of town; cricket fields; and a public swimming pool
- Trails
- Sidewalk issues (historically the Township's policy was that the homeowner or a grant would pay for them)
- Overcrowding – Continued Certificate of Occupancy
- Water Utility – Rocky Hill and Kingston

Mr. Daly reviewed the following worksheet with Council:

|  | <u>2006</u>        | <u>2007</u>        | <u>2008</u>        | <u>2009</u>        | <u>2010</u>        | <u>2011</u>        | <u>2012</u>         | <u>2013</u>         |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| IN-CAP   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| FTPD – S&W                                       | 11,869,068         | 12,552,202         | 13,631,378         | 14,796,888         | 16,055,639         | 17,415,091         | 18,883,298          | 20,468,962          |
| OE   | 657,210            | 613,080            | 620,000            | 620,000            | 620,000            | 620,000            | 620,000             | 620,000             |
| Public Works S&W                                 | 2,440,096          | 2,484,231          | 2,583,600          | 2,686,944          | 2,794,422          | 2,906,199          | 3,022,447           | 3,143,345           |
| OE   | 1,716,713          | 1,898,933          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000           | 1,900,000           |
| Const. Code S&W                                  | 1,222,705          | 1,132,612          | 1,177,916          | 1,225,033          | 1,274,034          | 1,324,996          | 1,377,996           | 1,433,116           |
| OE   | 72,350             | 59,900             | 60,000             | 60,000             | 60,000             | 60,000             | 60,000              | 60,000              |
| Other Depts. S&W                                 | 4,547,658          | 4,603,236          | 4,787,365          | 4,978,860          | 5,178,014          | 5,385,135          | 5,600,540           | 5,824,562           |
| OE   | 3,853,495          | 4,045,606          | 4,050,000          | 4,050,000          | 4,050,000          | 4,050,000          | 4,050,000           | 4,050,000           |
| Liability Insurance                              | 791,457            | 868,540            | 998,821            | 1,148,644          | 1,320,941          | 1,519,082          | 1,746,944           | 2,008,986           |
| Health Ins. – Active                             |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| Employees  | 4,787,617          |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| Medical  |                    | 2,337,659          | 2,618,179          | 2,932,360          | 3,284,243          | 3,678,352          | 4,119,755           | 4,614,125           |
| Dental   |                    | 245,675            | 265,329            | 286,555            | 309,479            | 334,238            | 360,977             | 389,855             |
| Prescription                                     |                    | 1,109,287          | 1,242,401          | 1,391,490          | 155,846            | 1,745,485          | 1,954,943           | 2,189,536           |
| +3 police officers                               |                    |                    | 30,000             | 90,000             | 150,000            | 210,000            | 270,000             | 330,000             |
| Medical  |                    | 589,168            | 665,760            | 752,308            | 850,108            | 960,622            | 1,085,503           | 1,226,619           |
| Dental   |                    | 56,107             | 61,156             | 66,660             | 72,660             | 79,199             | 86,327              | 94,097              |
| Prescription                                     |                    | 292,340            | 330,344            | 373,289            | 421,816            | 476,652            | 538,617             | 608,637             |
| Social Security                                  | 1,512,653          | 1,584,662          | 1,680,187.507      | 1,797,015.418      | 1,922,246.077      | 2,056,513.967      | 2,200,502.815       | 2,354,949.481       |
| PERS   | 179,600            | 338,480            | 451,307            | 564,133            | 597,981            | 633,860            | 659,215             | 685,583             |
| PFRS   | 758,173            | 1,353,258          | 1,691,573          | 1,759,235          | 1,829,605          | 1,939,381          | 2,055,744           | 2,137,974           |
| Capital Down Payments                            | 800,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000             | 100,000             |
| Cash Capital                                     | 1,825,680          | 937,155            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000            | 100,000             | 100,000             |
| SCIA Debt Service                                | 1,257,166          | 1,254,720          | 1,300,000          | 1,300,000          | 1,300,000          | 1,300,000          | 1,300,000           | 1,300,000           |
| Debt Service                                     | 2,900,201          | 3,068,138          | 3,663,974          | 3,548,944          | 2,957,740          | 2,728,977          | 2,837,352           | 3,084,006           |
| Debt Service on future                           |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| capital programs                                 |                    |                    |                    | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000             | 250,000             |
| Reserve for Uncollected Taxes                    | 4,652,193          | 4,985,847          | 5,268,170          | 5,566,837          | 5,844,571          | 6,136,800          | 6,443,640           | 6,443,640           |
| Misc. OUT-CAP                                    | 418,742            | 434,024            | 434,024            | 434,024            | 434,024            | 434,024            | 434,024             | 434,024             |
| Expenditures w/o Library Grants                  | 46,262,777         | 46,944,860         | 49,711,485         | 52,779,221         | 55,235,994         | 58,344,608         | 62,057,825          | 65,852,015          |
| Grants   | 1,773,782          | 362,327            | 362,327            | 362,327            | 362,327            | 362,327            | 362,327             | 362,327             |
| Library Expenditures                             | 2,199,372          | 2,564,789          | 2,783,875          | 2,950,540          | 3,117,205          | 3,283,870          | 3,450,535           | 3,617,200           |
| Total Expenditures                               | 50,235,930.72      | 49,871,975.95      | 52,857,687.60      | 56,092,088.04      | 58,715,526.73      | 61,990,805.30      | 65,870,687.27       | 69,831,542.48       |
| FY2007 Budget as Intro.                          |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| Does not include all anticipated grants          |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                                  | <b><u>2006</u></b> | <b><u>2007</u></b> | <b><u>2008</u></b> | <b><u>2009</u></b> | <b><u>2010</u></b> | <b><u>2011</u></b> | <b><u>2012</u></b>  | <b><u>2013</u></b>  |
| Surplus Anticipated (1-time use)                 | 1,179,680          | 937,154            |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| Surplus Anticipated (recurring use)              | 6,388,669          | 7,024,783          | 9,333,903          | 9,000,442          | 5,425,312          | 5,214,944          | 5,094,024           | 5,077,829           |
| License, fees, permits                           | 684,000            | 685,929            | 690,929            | 695,929            | 700,929            | 705,929            | 710,929             | 715,929             |
| Municipal Court                                  | 600,000            | 600,000            | 600,000            | 600,000            | 600,000            | 600,000            | 600,000             | 600,000             |
| Interest on Taxes                                | 400,000            | 400,000            | 400,000            | 400,000            | 400,000            | 400,000            | 400,000             | 400,000             |
| Investment Earnings                              | 601,763            | 1,000,000          | 1,396,818          | 1,208,784          | 1,025,757          | 11,052,438         | 1,091,742           | 1,138,300           |
| Fire Prevention Fees                             | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000            | 250,000             | 250,000             |
| Cable Franchise Fees                             | 52,704             | 52,704             | 52,700             | 52,700             | 52,700             | 52,700             | 52,700              | 52,700              |
| State Aid  | 6,387,687          | 6,385,759          | 6,387,687          | 6,387,687          | 6,387,687          | 6,387,687          | 6,387,687           | 6,387,687           |
| Construction Code Fees                           | 2,700,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000          | 1,900,000           | 1,900,000           |
| Hotel Tax  | 950,000            | 950,000            | 950,000            | 950,000            | 950,000            | 950,000            | 950,000             | 950,000             |
| Receipts from Delinquent Taxes                   | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000          | 1,800,000           | 1,800,000           |
| Local Tax for Mun. Purposes (@ 4%/yr after 2007) | 23,498,127         | 24,673,033         | 25,659,955         | 26,686,353         | 27,753,807         | 28,863,959         | 30,018,518          | 31,219,258          |
| Grants   | 1,691,946          | 343,326            | 343,326            | 343,326            | 343,326            | 343,326            | 343,326             | 343,326             |
| Interlocal Agreements                            | 305,947            | 308,495            | 308,495            | 308,495            | 308,495            | 308,495            | 308,495             | 308,495             |
| Library Tax                                      | 2,199,372          | 2,564,789          | 2,783,875          | 2,950,540          | 3,117,205          | 3,283,870          | 3,450,535           | 3,617,200           |
| Recurring Revenues                               | 42,121,581         | 41,914,036         | 43,523,785         | 44,533,814         | 45,589,907         | 46,898,405         | 48,263,932          | 49,682,896          |
| Sale of Liquor Licenses                          | 546,000            | --                 | --                 | --                 | --                 | --                 | --                  | --                  |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                            | <b>50,235,931</b>  | <b>49,871,976</b>  | <b>52,857,688</b>  | <b>53,534,256</b>  | <b>51,015,219</b>  | <b>52,113,350</b>  | <b>53,357,956</b>   | <b>54,760,725</b>   |
| <b>REVENUES MINUS EXP.</b>                       | <b>--</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>--</b>          | <b>(2,557,833)</b> | <b>(7,700,308)</b> | <b>(9,877,456)</b> | <b>(12,512,732)</b> | <b>(15,070,817)</b> |

| Budget Balancing Strategies                                    | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| CAP Analysis   |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Estimated CAO at 3.5%  |             | 34,714,337  | 35,929,339  | 37,186,866  | 38,488,406  | 39,835,501  | 41,229,743  | 42,672,784  |
| CAP bank   |             |             | 1,259,237   | 986,139     | ---         | ---         | ---         | ---         |
| Added new construction   |             | 1,018,137   | 500,000     | 500,000     | 500,000     | 500,000     | 500,000     | 500,000     |
| Projected IN-CAP appropriations                                |             | 34,473,237  | 36,702,437  | 39,156,047  | 41,822,073  | 44,721,565  | 47,877,849  | 51,316,788  |
| CAP bank (reductions req. to stay in CAP)                      |             | 1,259,237   | 986,139     | (483,042)   | (2,833,666) | (4,386,064) | (6,148,106) | (8,144,004) |
| Switch to new health benefits plan                             |             |             | (500,000)   | (500,000)   | (500,000)   | (500,000)   | (500,000)   | (500,000)   |
| Add'l cutbacks req. to stay within CAP                         |             |             | ---         | 16,958      | (2,333,666) | (3,886,064) | (5,648,106) | (7,644,004) |
| Vehicle replacement program: every other year                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Skip 2007  |             |             | (200,000)   | (200,000)   | (200,000)   |             |             |             |
| Cut 2009 in half   |             |             |             |             | (100,000)   | (100,000)   | (100,000)   |             |
| Cut 2011 in half   |             |             |             |             |             |             | (100,000)   | (100,000)   |
| Hold annual capital program <\$1 million (reduce downpayments) |             |             | (50,000)    | (175,000)   | (175,000)   | (175,000)   | (175,000)   |             |
| Increase license and non-construction permit fees              |             | 100,000     | 102,000     | 104,040     | 106,121     | 108,243     | 110,408     | 112,616     |
| Net Changes from strategies                                    |             | 100,000     | 852,000     | 962,082     | 3,414,787   | 4,769,307   | 6,633,514   | 8,356,620   |
| Add'l available surplus from prior year changes                |             |             | 100,000     | 952,000     | ---         | ---         | ---         | ---         |
| Remaining imbalances   |             | 100,000     | 952,000     | (643,750)   | (4,285,521) | (5,108,148) | (5,879,217) | (6,714,197) |

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need to bank as many affordable housing units as possible to meet COAH's obligation. All future Planning Board applications should be reviewed to see if they can provide affordable housing units. Mr. Prasad suggested the Township explore the idea of Affordable Housing Bonds to provide housing proactively in Franklin irrespective of any COAH obligations.

### SFY 2008 Budget Calendar

The Township Council and Township Manager discussed the proposed SFY2008 Budget Calendar. Mr. Daly recommended that instead of having three (3) budget hearings during July and August that Council consider having three consecutive nights during the first week of September. Mr. Prasad suggested the possibility of having the public hearings during the last two weeks of August. Mr. Vassanella suggested the possibility of having some or all of the public hearings on a Saturday or Sunday. After a brief discussion regarding different times to hold the budget hearings, it was the consensus of Council to place it as a discussion item at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. The Township Council are going to submit their September schedules to the Township Manager.

|   | <u>BUDGET</u><br><u>ACTIVITIES</u>         | <u>DESCRIPTION</u>   | <u>TIME TABLE</u><br><u>(DATES)</u>    |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | <b>Budget Instructions:</b>                | Finance to provide Instruction to Heads of Department  | May 1, 2007                            |
| 2 | <b>Presentation of Proposed Budget:</b>    | Heads of Department presentation of Proposed Budget to Township Manager                                | June 1, 2007                           |
| 3 | <b>Budget Proposal Meeting:</b>            | Heads of Department meeting with Township Manager  | June 29, 2007                          |
| 4 | <b>Completion of Draft Budget</b>          | Township Manager and Finance Department to complete Draft Budget                                       | July 31, 2007                          |
| 5 | <b>Completion of Final Budget</b>          | Township Manager and Finance Department to complete Final Budget                                       | August 10, 2007                        |
| 6 | <b>Budget Hearings by Township Council</b> | Presentation of Budget by Township Manager/Heads of Department to Township Council and Budget Hearings | 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of September 2007 |
| 7 | <b>Budget Introduction</b>                 | Introduction of Budget by Township Council to Public   | September 25, 2007                     |

|   |  |   |                  |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| 8 | <b>Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget</b> | Budget Hearing and Adoption by Township Council | October 23, 2007 |
|---|--|---|------------------|

### Solid Waste Utility

Thomas Zilinek, Township Engineer, made the following presentation regarding a proposed Solid Waste Utility:

#### **“Providing Additional Solid Waste Services**

In response to resident requests for the following additional services:

1. Private haulers
  - (a) Hours of collection
  - (b) Price inequities
2. Lack of Spring Cleanup
3. Bulk Pickup
4. Roadside Litter
5. Illegal Dumping

#### **Create a Solid Waste Authority and respond to the above accordingly**

1. Start the new service of contracting solid waste collection by the Township. By creating a Solid Waste Utility the Township would bid out the collection services and therefore have control over the collection hours. It would also mean that everyone on a street has the same collection day. These are both quality of life issues. It would also create a uniform cost structure for residents.
2. The start of a once per month bulk collection eliminates the need for a spring cleanup.
3. Start the new service of a once per month bulk collection eliminating the need for resident paving for mini dump passes and making arrangements to get materials to the mini dump.
4. Create a roadside litter crew by hiring two new employees and purchase a mason dump truck. This two man crew would work five days per week going throughout the Township patrolling for and cleaning up roadside litter.
5. Use the roadside crew to patrol for and cleanup illegal dumping.

#### **Financial Reasons**

1. Creating a Solid Waste Utility will bring all the costs associated with the above outside of cap.
2. The recycling collection can also be brought into the Solid Waste Utility. This would put those costs, which are currently under cap, outside of cap. This would be a savings of \$575,000.00 under the cap.
3. The mini dump could be closed due to the once per month bulk pickup. This would save the cost of overtime to operate the mini dump.

#### **Costs**

Approximate cost for Collection is 8.1 million dollars, based on similar municipalities (S. Brunswick, E. Brunswick, Hamilton, Lawrence, Bloomfield, W. Orange to name a few). Disposal fees would be approximately 3.1 million dollars. The recycling collections costs approximately \$600,000.00. The litter patrol will cost approximately \$100,000. The total cost to run the Solid Waste utility would be about 11.8 million. This total cost breaks down about \$450

per household. The current average cost per home for private collection is between \$450.00 and \$500.00, plus the portion of their taxes that go for recycling collection and the operation of the mini dump.

Therefore for roughly the same costs, the residents will be getting the following:

1. Elimination of the need to hire a solid waste contractor
2. Elimination of a monthly solid waste collection bill
3. Elimination of 4 am solid waste collection
4. Curbside monthly bulk pickup
  - (a) Eliminate need to purchase mini dump passes
  - (b) Eliminate making arrangements to get materials to mini dump
5. Solid waste payments that are tax deductible.”

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Township Council to refer this matter to the Public Works Standing Committee for their review and recommendation.

#### *Council Roundtable on Goals and Priorities for 2007*

Mr. Prasad recommended a Community Swimming Pool idea on the lot on the corner of Hamilton and DeMott. He suggested the solicitation of corporate donor/partners like J&J to build the pool at no cost to Franklin. We will let their employees use the pool at a minimal per dip fee to cover our operating costs. The residents would also pay a \$5/dip or discounted monthly fee to cover the cost of life guards and other expenses. This swimming pool concept could be expanded to every school, giving the area residents access to the pools in the evenings and weekends.

Mr. Prasad moved that the Kingston School be used during the winter months for dance rehearsals at no charge. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Eberle. Mr. Prasad stated that if the school could not be used at no charge that he or Ms. Eberle would offer to open and close the school for the dance group. Ms. Danile stated she would like to amend the motion to include that Mr. Prasad or Ms. Eberle would open the building. After a brief discussion, it concluded that Mr. Prasad or Ms. Eberle would open the building for the dance group.

Mr. Vassanella stated that a policy needs to be made to solve this issue regarding waiving fees. He noted that the dance group deserves and should have a place to rehearse. He stated that Council is going about the matter the wrong way. This matter should be referred to the Parks and Recreation Standing Committee to provide a recommendation regarding use of the Kingston School and the Community Center.

Mr. Prasad also recommended a Peace and Non-Violence Park with statues of Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, with inscriptions to inspire everyone, to follow their path of peace and non-violence. We will need a high traffic area to remind everyone of their ideals, preferably on Easton Avenue at the Intersection of DeMott, JFK or Foxwood Drive. These would be built with donated funds from the public at no cost to the township.

Mr. Vassanella agreed and noted this would be similar to the way the Veterans Memorial was built. Mayor Levine recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mr. Prasad noted when he was on the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee an issue that was important to them was transportation. It was noted that County transportation requires four (4) weeks in advance notification and there is not enough access. Transportation needs to be an on-demand basis for a nominal fee for shopping and appointments.

Mr. McKenzie stated that as great as all these proposals are, they all cost money. After reviewing the different proposals, he would support all, but the key is to provide financial strategies that would reduce the impact on taxes for citizens.

Ms. Eberle stated that when the Kingston School was purchased it was with the promise that the people of Kingston would be able to use it. The Township gave the residents the expectation of its use. She stated that promises were made and they should be kept. Ms. Eberle stated that a solution needs to be found.

Ms. Eberle spoke of the truck traffic issue on Route 27. She has sent emails to Assemblyman Chivukula and Senator Smith for their help and hopes they respond to them when they return from their train ride to Washington. She reported there are interested groups in Kingston and there are form letters to send to the legislators.

Ms. Eberle spoke of a Franklin Township Center at Middlebush and Route 27. She reported there are shopping stores that are not leased. She reported the Business and Industry Advisory Committee are trying to get owners of the center to make more effort to rent stores. Unrented stores are eyesores and residents need different places to shop. She stated that Mr. Prasad has good ideas to upgrade the Township.

Mr. Vassanella addressed the idea of a Volunteer Office that would recruit and utilize the many Township resident volunteers that include retirees, teachers and students. He would like to see the development of a mechanism to utilize volunteer services to offset costs.

Mr. Vassanella asked if there was additional space in the municipal building as a result of the additions and renovations being made to the municipal building for Council to utilize. He stated that the present Council is more actively using the Council office and there are times where there is more than one Councilmember using the office at the same time. He suggested the Township Manager's Office since that office is moving as the result of the renovations. Mr. Daly replied that could be looked into.

Mr. Vassanella asked the Purchasing Administrator, Joyce Miller if there was a need for additional pages in the news letter. He asked if there were times where more room was needed to get all the information into the newsletter. Ms. Miller replied that if more pages were added, the cost would be more. She stated that she has never had any problem filling the pages with information or having any surplus information. Mr. Vassanella suggested a consolidation of printed materials.

Mr. Vassanella suggested that a computer or laptop be placed in the Council Chambers to be used to provide GIA information and maps to show the audience when discussing matters involving maps.

Ms. Danile stated that the Council has done a good job in keeping the budget and spending down and hopes it continues finding ways to save money.

Ms. Danile stated that traffic matters were addressed in the 287 Study and it provided many good recommendations. She implored Council to push the County into implementing some of these recommendations.

Ms. Danile stated that Council needs to be mindful and to stay on top of development in the Township. Ms. Danile expressed her hope that Council would consider a moratorium on building.

Ms. Danile wishes that the Township continues to work on Parks and Recreation improvements. She stated that Middlebush Park will be a paradise for all residents and a park is needed at the south end of town.

Ms. Danile reminded everyone that February is Black History Month.

Mr. Sumter agreed with Ms. Eberle that the Kingston School should be used as promised. He agreed with Mr. Prasad regarding the statues and memorials. He suggested that the Council meetings not continue at 4-5 hours. He stated that 3 hours is more than enough time. He stated that any longer people are gone before the end of the meeting. He also reminded everyone of Black History Month.

Deputy Mayor Ritchie agreed with Mr. McKenzie that Council needs to provide fiscal responsibility and to determine their priorities as such.

Deputy Mayor Ritchie agreed that they need to continue to be active with parks and recreation by finishing Middlebush Park and move forward with a park in the southern sector of town. She stated that she works in a community that has fields with artificial turf, night lighting, dig outs and public ice skating. She stated the Township needs to be active in providing recreational facilities. She stated that they should keep in mind that the Township already has a community pool.

Deputy Mayor Ritchie hoped that the Joint Meeting of the Board of Education is re-scheduled soon, noting that last week the meeting was cancelled. She reported that the legislators have baled on the issue of combining the Board of Education and Fire District elections with the November election. She stated that Council needs to keep on top of the school budget and be prepared to deal with it if it is defeated in April.

Deputy Mayor Ritchie stated that she doesn't view affordable housing as a state mandate, she looks at it as a moral and social obligation. She stated that communities have an obligation to families with children and have no right to close them out.

Mayor Levine agrees with Mr. Vassanella's proposed Council office concept. He agreed with the comments regarding parks, especially Middlebush Park and a southern park. He agreed that they need to keep a close relationship with the Board of Education so that they are all on the same page. He stated that the Township has many governmental entities and they all need to be on the same page.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mr. Prasad moved to open the meeting for public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Sumter and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

There being no comments made from the public, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Ritchie to close the meeting to the public. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Prasad and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Prasad, seconded by Mr. Sumter, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Approved: *As Submitted.*

Date: *February 27, 2007*

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Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk