

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

6:00 PM

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
25 ALDER AVENUE, BOARD ROOM
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES

School Board President Galvin and Deputy Mayor Glassey called the Special Meeting to Order (6:08 pm)

President Galvin led the flag salute.

Mrs. Kateryna Bechtel, Board Secretary read the Opening Statement for the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL: Neil Anderson, Doris Dilley, John Haines, Frank Kearns, Brian Murphy, Mary Anne Spiker, Barbara Szilagyi and James Galvin, President - all present.

Deputy Township Clerk Tedesco read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

ROLL CALL: John Carman, Jr. - present
Stanley Glassey - present
Paul Hodson - present
John Risley - present
James J. McCullough - absent

The purpose of this Special Meeting was to discuss issues of mutual interest with the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education.

The Board of Education and Township Committee members discussed possibilities of tracts of land that could be put together for future school development. The four (4) available tracts of land include the following:

De Carlo Tract, 48 acres
Ridge and Ninth Avenue , 35 acres
Winnipeg Avenue, 34 acres
Reed Farm Site, 37 acres

The Board of Education advised the high school is maxed out with 3,000 students in attendance, a total enrollment of 7,793 students in all schools. State budget cuts totaling 36 million dollars are not acceptable in this large growth district.

Board Member Anderson inquired about local impact fees collected by the Township.

Deputy Mayor Glassey explained an Impact Fee Ordinance was passed several years ago. However, the South Jersey Builders League successfully challenged the ordinance. Another ordinance is currently pending approval by The Pinelands which would require Open Space and Recreation Space contributions of \$5,500 in-lieu of facilities.

The Deputy Mayor also explained the Township is considering introducing an ordinance to collect fees from developers of single family dwellings which would be used to offset school expenses. The Deputy Mayor said our schools are in a financial crisis due to recent growth. Hamilton, Galloway and Egg Harbor Townships need to ban together and approach state government for needed financial aid.

Township Administrator Miller arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Heery commented that while the local tax is relatively stable, lack of state funding has had an impact. He advised no expansion of school programs is anticipated for next year.

Township Administrator Miller referred to the four (4) parcels of available land to the Board of Education for construction of a future school. He requested the Board provide a priority list of desired locations. The Township has discussed accelerating the Township's purchase of vacant lands for future school sites and will continue to purchase land and execute land swaps.

Deputy Mayor Glassey asked Administrator Miller what happens to money generated from Pinelands Development Credits.

Mr. Miller explained the money is used to reimburse landowners in protected areas for the inability to develop their land.

Committeeman Carman explained that he has tried to explain to The Pinelands Commission that the Pinelands growth areas should receive compensation for accepting growth.

Board Member Murphy inquired about Recreation Fees collected by Egg Harbor Township.

Township Administrator Miller stated that in 2005, the money was used for the construction of three (3) football fields and a down payment on the community center.

Township Administrator Miller detailed outstanding items relative to the acceptance of Alder Avenue including; incomplete crosswalks and drainage swales, the need for street and STOP signs which the Township agreed to take care of, line striping on Alder Avenue and a legal description of roadway which Engineer Polistina agreed to prepare.

Board Secretary Bechtel asked if the Township would have any objections to the Board of Education reimbursing the Township for the paving work to be done on Alder Avenue. Township Committee had no objections.

There was a general discussion of various school alternatives including block, split and rotation scheduling and mods.

Deputy Mayor Glassey commended the School Board for doing a fine job with limited funding.

Superintendent Heery thanked his staff for producing under extraordinary circumstances.

Deputy Mayor Glassey thanked the School Board for this opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest which benefits all parties, especially the tax payers.

Superintendent Heery agreed and suggested they meet annually.

Board President Galvin also thanked the Township Committee.

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GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No one came forward.

Motion Carman second Risley to close General Public Discussion. All present voted - yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Hodson second Glassey to adjourn (7:35 pm). All present voted - yes

Stanley Glassey, Deputy Mayor

Eileen M. Tedesco, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk