

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

May 20, 2011

The Council Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order at 3:30 pm by Mayor Steinhardt. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865.

Mayor Steinhardt stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

A prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Steinhardt, Council President Camporine, Councilmen Baker, and Mengucci. Also present were CFO Dobes, Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

**Business:**

**2011 Municipal Budget** – Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt the 2011 Municipal Budget. Motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Mengucci. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmen Baker, Mengucci, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

**Resolution No. 11-49** – Fair distribution of school aid.

R 11-49

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN  
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE  
DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL AID

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong believes that every child should have equal resources of state aid distributed by the legislature for an education in the State of New Jersey by utilizing a fair school fund mechanism; and

WHEREAS, the current distribution of state aid for education to the schools has not been distributed in a fair and equitable manner to provide property tax relief to all the citizens of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Article III., Paragraph 1, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, “The powers of the government shall be divided among three distinct branches, the legislative, executive and judicial. No person or persons belonging to or constituting one branch shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others except as expressly provided in this Constitution;” and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, “the Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all children in the State between the ages of five and eighteen years;” and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 2, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, “the fund for the support of free public schools ... shall be annually appropriated to the support of free public schools, and for the equal benefit of all the people of this State;” and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section I, Paragraph 7.a. of the New Jersey Constitution states, the income tax is to be “annually appropriated ... exclusively for the purpose of reducing or offsetting property taxes;” and

WHEREAS, this body can no longer bear the burden of the continued diversion of its fair share of state school aid for the students between the ages of five and eighteen years of age who reside within this jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong do hereby call upon the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to fulfill its constitutionally assigned duty to distribute the state aid for education to the school districts in this state in a fair manner that is for the equal benefit of all the people of the state and not by means that are prejudiced by the actions of special interests that may have been presented before the Court or other venue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this entity is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Friday, May 20, 2011.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt the 2011 Municipal Budget. Motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Mengucci. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmen Baker, Mengucci, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

**Resolution No. 11-50** – Correction in the 2011 Budget.

R 11-50

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CORRECTIONS IN THE BUDGET FOR 2011

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A-85 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may, at the request of, or with the consent of, the governing body of any municipality make such correction of the title, text or amount of any appropriation appearing in the budgets as may be necessary to make said item of appropriation available for the purpose or purposes required for the needs of any such municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A-85, the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to make the following corrections in the budget of the year 2011:

From:

Building Sub Code Official  
Salaries & Wages

\$26,000.00

To:

Uniform Fire Safety Act – Fire Inspection  
Salaries & Wages

\$26,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing correction is, in the opinion of the governing body warranted and authorized by the statute above referred to and is

necessary for the orderly operation of the municipality for the reasons hereinafter set fourth:

Uniform Fire Safety Act Funds were appropriated in the wrong line item.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Friday, May 20, 2011.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt the 2011 Municipal Budget. Motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Mengucci. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmen Baker, Mengucci, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

**Public Comment** – No one was present from the public

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Mengucci. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts  
Clerk/Administrator

Douglas J. Steinhardt  
Mayor