

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
MAY 18, 2010
5:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee and Murphy.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Borghi, Attorney Hall.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Lewis, Chief Financial Officer Mason, Attorney Pringle and Auditor Kaplan.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Menna requested the minutes reflect that, in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Courier, the Two River Times and the Star Ledger and by placing a notice on the bulletin board and filing same with the Borough Clerk on May 12, 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA AND ORDINANCES ON THE AGENDA ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS

10-119 A Resolution Concerning the 2010-2011 Budget of the Red Bank Regional High School District.

Mayor Menna reviewed the circumstances prior to the meeting and noted that the Governing Bodies of both Little Silver and Shrewsbury boroughs, the two other municipalities that were part of the Red Bank Regional School District, had met and both had adopted resolutions regarding the amount of the levy that was to be reduced. He said the cuts proposed by the school's administration would have minimal impact. He asked the members of the Council if they had any questions for the School Administrators, noting that they were in attendance and he thanked them for making themselves available. He noted that the resolution was essentially the same as the one that was previously before them but said he understood the Council's interest in trying to get more information. He said the reductions to the budget, which totaled \$270,500, were proposed by the Administrative Staff to take affect in a number of areas that would have minimal impact on the technical and efficient educational system as well as the orderly operations of the programs. He added that the school was a well recognized place of higher education in Monmouth County.

Councilman DuPont asked if the cuts were a result of the elimination of positions or reduction in force and a wage freeze. Mayor Menna said that was correct and said the biggest change in the reduction was a change in their health benefits that would result in a saving of approximately \$108,600. He said he also knew that there had been talk about having the collecting bargaining units agree to adjustments but noted that, as they were heading into the budget season, the Regional Board of Education and their collective bargaining units had previously executed those agreements before the State made their changes. Mayor Menna said the Administrative Staff should be commended for their efforts and noted that the proposed changes did meet with the concurrence of the other two towns.

Councilwoman Horgan asked if Business Administrator Christina Galvao could go through the changes so that everyone would be informed. Ms. Galvao itemized the specific positions that were eliminated and noted that the Superintendent had accepted a wage freeze. She said the cuts came from a combination of Administrative, Instructional and Support staff salaries.

Councilman DuPont asked Ms. Galvao to confirm that there would be no elimination of sports activities. She said there would not.

Councilman Zipprich asked her confirm that there would be no reduction in programming for the students. She again said there would not.

Councilwoman Horgan asked her to confirm that the Clubs would remain in place. Ms. Galvao said they would and noted that all instructional programs would remain in place and that the cuts had been recommended by the Administration because they wouldn't impact instructional or athletic programs.

Councilman DuPont noted that the District had reduced their budget by 1.8 percent from the previous year and their proposed operating budget was almost two percent less than the previous year. Ms. Galvao said after the proposed cuts it would be 2.5 percent less. Councilman DuPont said he wanted people to understand that the school budget had been reduced and the Administration did take additional steps to eliminate positions, impose a wage freeze and reduce their force.

Ms. Galvao said the Board wished to keep the tax levy well below the four percent cap and noted that the initial budget that was proposed would have meant an increase of two percent. She said that was with a reduction in the budget but they had to offset the decrease in State aid of 78 percent.

Administrator Sickels asked her to quantify the dollar amount of the cuts that were made before the proposed additional cuts. She said it was a net of between \$400,000 and \$500,000 but the cuts were between \$4 and \$5 million which were offset by an increase in health benefits. Mayor Menna noted that that was something everyone was experiencing.

Councilman Zipprich reviewed that Ms. Galvao had said that spending was down 1.8 percent from the previous year and after the proposed additional cuts it would be down 2.5 percent. She confirmed that was the case.

Mayor Menna noted that these were not easy times and said he felt the Council members had legitimate questions and were expressing the concerns of the Borough's residents. He added that they were also sympathetic and said they had a known quantity on the Red Bank Regional Board of Education and the instructional capacity of the school that was second to none. He said they were sensitive, along with the other municipalities, in trying to maintain the level of rigorous training that the school offers. He added that he thought it was a delicate balancing act and that the three municipalities had performed their statutory obligation. He said he believed this was a fair settlement.

Ms. Galvao thanked the Council for the opportunity to offer more information. She also apologized for not providing information to the Council ahead of time and said, in the future, would be willing to come and meet with them.

Councilwoman Horgan said presenting their budget at a Council meeting would be a good thing.

Council President Murphy arrived at 5:20 pm.

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak.

No one appearing, Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the public hearing was declared closed.

RESOLUTIONS

10-119 A Resolution Concerning the 2010-2011 Budget of the Red Bank Regional High School District.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion, seconded by Councilman DuPont to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi