

BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES, NEW JERSEY

SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 30, 2010

A Special Meeting – Budget Public Hearing of the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey, was held on the above date in Oaks Hall at Municipal Cabin, 1 Cabin Circle, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055 beginning at 7:30pm. Following the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence (Council and the public observed a moment of silence to honor service men and women defending our country). Clerk McIntosh read the Open Public Meetings Act: pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided by advertisement in the Central Record on June 10th, 2010 and June 17th, 2010 and posted on the official bulletin board of the Borough of Medford Lakes. Those wishing to be notified for changes to scheduled meetings were notified via email or regular mail.

ROLL CALL

Clerk McIntosh called roll. Mayor Paul G. Weiss, Esq., Councilman Timothy S. Casey and Councilman Gregory C. Lackey answered in attendance. Also present were Manager Julie Horner-Keizer, Deputy Manager/Clerk Mark J. McIntosh, Police Chief Frank Martine, Finance Officer Donna A. Condo and Registered Municipal Auditor Robert Stewart.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Mayor Weiss opened the meeting for public comment.

Hearing none, Mayor Weiss closed public comment.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Weiss introduced Resolution Number 114-10, seconded by Councilman Lackey.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 114-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE READING OF

THE 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN TITLE ONLY

WHEREAS, the Budget must be read in full unless at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget shall be made available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Budget must be available for public inspection in the regional library of the County; and

WHEREAS, a resolution must be passed by a majority of the full membership stating that the law has been met and allowing that the budget be read by title.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Clerk certifies all of the requirements by law have been met to read the 2010 Municipal Budget by title only.

Mayor Weiss introduced Resolution Number 102-10(2), seconded by Councilman Lackey.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 102-10 (2)

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
(PUBLIC HEARING – SECOND READING)**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Budget of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington for the year 2010 is hereby adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget was published in the Central Record in the issue of June 17, 2010; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Medford lakes, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey:

1. Does hereby approve and adopt the following as the Budget for the Year 2010.
2. Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was introduced and approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, on June 1, 2010.
3. A hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution was held at Municipal Cabin, 1 Cabin Circle, Medford Lakes, NJ in Oaks Hall on June 30, 2010 at 7:30PM at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2010 was made available to the taxpayers or other interested persons.

Manager Horner – Keizer provided a synopsis of the proposed budget stating that the overall tax rate was pending Burlington County setting their rate but the following rates were available:

Lenape Regional School District = 1.215

Medford Lakes Local School District = .542

Medford Lakes Local Municipality = .590

Manager Horner – Keizer stated that cuts in the Clerical Staff, re-structuring of the Construction and Zoning Office along with scaled down building maintenance, revised office hours and a shared service agreement with Evesham Township for Assessor services had allowed for a zero (0) increase in the local municipal tax. She stated that the budget goal Council set had been met and she credited the department heads for their assistance and ideas.

Mayor Weiss stated that the goal was accomplished in no small part to Manager Horner – Keizer's leadership.

Councilman Lackey stated that the nine-month budget process involved some difficult decisions but had produced a fiscally responsible budget. He believes that the Borough needs to focus on increasing revenues for future budgets.

Councilman Casey echoed similar thoughts and reminded the public that we have been absorbing the debt service from the 2004 dam loans and were still able to have a flat rate.

Mayor Weiss opened the public hearing on the budget.

Joe Aromando of 285 Shingowack Trail commented on the use of surplus, salary increases, professional and legal fees, deferred charges and his desire to see future exploration of combing the sewer utility fee with the property taxes allowing for tax right-offs.

David Wasson of 97 Wabun Trail stated his concern with the reduction in building maintenance.

Mike Powers of 19 Onondago Trail pointed out a budget discrepancy in the amount of employees.

Manager Horner – Keizer agreed that it should state 23 and not 24.

Robert McGowan of 18 Cochise Circle thanked everyone for doing a great job on the budget and reminded everyone that good management of the budget is imperative given the local and State financial condition.

Joe Aromando of 285 Shingowack Trail commented on the Capital items within the proposed budget.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Weiss closed the public hearing.

Mayor Weiss introduced Resolution Number 113-10, seconded by Councilman Lackey

RESOLUTION NUMBER 113-10

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2010 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2010 was approved on the 1st day of June, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, that amendments to the approved budget of 2010 be made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for his certification of the 2010 local municipal budget so amended.

Finance Officer Condo explained the need for the amendment was to comply with the State's request to move the 2009 Fire Grant, Health Care and PFRS items from inside CAP to the outside CAP.

Mayor Weiss opened the meeting to a public hearing on the Resolution amendment.

Hearing none, Mayor Weiss closed the public hearing.

Mayor Weiss called for the vote on Resolution Number 114-10(Reading Budget by Title)

Vote to approve/adopt Resolution Number 114-10

Yeas – Weiss, Casey, Lackey

Nays – None

Resolution approved/adopted

Mayor Weiss called for the vote on Resolution Number 113-10 (Amending Introduced Budget)

Vote to approve/adopt Resolution Number 113-10

Yeas – Weiss, Casey, Lackey
Nays – None
Resolution approved/adopted

Mayor Weiss called for the vote on Resolution Number 102-10 (2) (Adoption of Budget)

Vote to approve/adopt Resolution Number 102-10 (2)
Yeas – Weiss, Casey, Lackey
Nays – None
Resolution approved/adopted

Mayor Weiss thanked Finance Officer Condo and Auditor Stewart for work on the budget and attending the public hearing.

Mayor Weiss introduced Resolution Number 115-10, seconded by Councilman Lackey

RESOLUTION NUMBER 115-10

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OVER THE LIMIT
UNDER ARREST 2010 STATEWIDE CRACKDOWN**

WHEREAS, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, the end of summer season is traditionally a time of social gatherings which often include alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the objective is to reduce alcohol-related fatalities in New Jersey from its current level of 31% through targeted impaired driving enforcement and education which will save lives; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the Over the Limit Under Arrest 2010 Statewide Crackdown; and

WHEREAS, this project will involve increased, impaired driving enforcement from August 20th through September 6, 2010.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Medford Lakes declares its support for the Over the Limit Under Arrest 2010 Statewide Crackdown from August 20th through September 6, 2010 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Chief Martine stated that the Borough had received the grant.

Mayor Weiss introduced Resolution Number 116-10, seconded by Councilman Lackey for discussion.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 116-10

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2.5%
CONSTITUTIONAL CAP ON PROPERTY TAX LEVIES, WITH MODIFICATIONS AND**

**CLARIFICATIONS, AND AFTER PASSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR’S “TOOLKIT” REFORMS AND
MANDATES RELIEF**

WHEREAS, Governor Christopher Christie has called for a Constitutional Amendment to cap annual property tax levy increases at 2.5% and another Constitutional Amendment to limit some annual State spending increases to 2.5%; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey mayors and municipal officials enthusiastically support such caps, as long as municipalities are also given the tools to continue to provide our citizens with high-quality, vital services life-sustaining and life-enhancing services, within that limit;

WHEREAS, we commend Governor Christie, who has recognized this as an absolute necessity, both when he introduced his toolkit, and when he said about the cap, in Hoboken, "If that's all we do, what we leave for Mayor Zimmer is an impossible situation;" and

WHEREAS, there is a danger that the Legislature may advance the cap question to the voters and be delayed in acting on the other reforms; and while the Governor can delay signing a bill that would amend current law or enact a new statute, nothing can delay a proposed Constitutional Amendment, once the Legislature passes the Resolution by sufficient majorities; and

WHEREAS, it is, therefore, imperative for the other toolkit and mandates reform bills to be on the Governor’s Desk, before the Legislature votes to advance the proposed caps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey does register its enthusiastic support for Governor Chris Christie’s proposed 2.5% Constitutional Cap on property tax levies, with modifications and clarifications, and after the passage of the Governor’s “Toolkit” reforms and mandates relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cap proposal must be the final piece, not the centerpiece, of a well-thought-out ‘toolkit’ of reforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, statutory reforms relating to binding arbitration, civil service, public employee pensions and benefits, disciplinary procedures, school and special district elections and mandates relief must be enacted **BEFORE** the voters are asked to approve the Constitutional Caps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, statutory arbitration reforms must limit the full economic impact of awards to conform to the 2.5% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, statutory Health benefit reforms must conform future health benefit costs to the 2.5% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, municipal revenues, such as the Energy Tax, which are now collected by, and diverted to, the State, but which are legally intended for municipal property tax relief, must be constitutionally dedicated for their original purpose; or in the alternative, those taxes should be reformed to allow collection directly by municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Administration must advance immediate mandates relief initiatives to assist municipalities in managing within the 2.5% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the cap must allow local units some flexibility to deal with pension costs, utility costs, disaster and emergency response costs and other costs imposed by factors beyond the control of

local leaders, it must mirror the State cap, where possible, on exceptions and the process needed to exceed cap limits, it should include a provision allowing an exception to the cap, up to a limit of, for example, 5%, to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the governing body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, so that the will of the majority may be allowed to prevail, the proposal could still require the voters to approve by a simple majority any increase over that level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a cap exception for the costs associated with tax appeals should be included, and costs mandated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) should be excepted from the 2.5% cap or the costs of new AOC mandates should be capped at 2.5%; now therefore

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Mayor Weiss explained his support for the League of Municipalities recommended Resolution.

Councilman Casey stated that the Resolution is purely a political ploy.

Councilman Lackey stated that the Leagues Resolution was an improvement from the original draft but was concerned with only a CAP on towns and not on the State and concerned that not enough study had been completed to see its value.

Mayor Weiss stated that the League's Resolution offered a balanced approach to the property tax issue.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

Mayor Weiss read the following proclamation into the record.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

A PROCLAMATION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE'S PROPOSAL TO PLACE A 2.5% CAP ON ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASES AND FURTHER ENDORSING THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN TO INITIATE FINANCIAL REFORMS ON THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the residents of New Jersey pay the highest property taxes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this tax has driven many residents and businesses to leave the State; and

WHEREAS, the State's fiscal and economic woes for at least the past thirty (30) years have been the product of several factors including but not limited to the imposition of State and Federal unfunded mandates on county and local governments, a binding uneven police and firefighter interest arbitration process, significant pay-outs of vacation and sick time to public retirees, negotiated collective bargaining agreements that exceed in many

cases the 4% tax levy cap and cost of living, and a general out of control spending and mismanagement of fiscal affairs by prior State Administrators, and excessive spending at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the current recession with double digit unemployment, foreclosures and the downsizing of many businesses and industries have all contributed to a significant loss of revenue to the State Treasury complicating the State's already troubled financial ratings; and

WHEREAS, the Christie administration has proposed a program to rein in spending and close a projected \$10.7 billion budget gap for fiscal year 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, Governor Christie is proposing to cap annual property tax increases at 2.5%; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement a 2.5% cap on property taxes, the Legislature would have to approve a State-wide voter referendum that would result in a constitutional amendment if the measure succeeded; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal is a comprehensive program that is intended to cure the State's financial ills and put it back on the road to recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's plan to impose a 2.5% limit on property tax increases will facilitate greater fiscal responsibility by municipalities, school districts and other local government entities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Paul Gerard Weiss, Mayor of the Borough of Medford Lakes, in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey hereby endorse and support Governor Chris Christie's proposal to place a 2.5% cap on annual property tax increases through a constitutional amendment to lead the State on the road back from financial disaster to a state of prosperity.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Mayor Weiss opened the meeting for public comment.

David Wasson (Mayor Emeritus) of 19 Onondago Trail stated support for Resolution Number 116-10.

Joe Aromando of 285 Shingowack Trail stated that Resolution 116-10 was a good start but won't work unless applied also to the State. All debt should be reported in its entirety, i.e. all administration costs, advertising costs and project costs.

Mayor Weiss closed public comment

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Weiss called for the vote on the Resolution Number 115-10

Vote to approve/adopt Resolution Number 115-10

Yeas – Weiss, Casey, Lackey

Nays – None

Resolution approved/adopted

Mayor Weiss called for the vote on the Resolution Number 116-10

Vote to approve/adopt Resolution Number 116-10

Yeas – Weiss

Nays – Lackey, Casey

Resolution not approved/not adopted

Councilman Casey thanked Mayor Weiss for his service and leadership to the Borough and although they didn't agree on everything he was privileged to have served with the Mayor.

Mayor Weiss thanked Councilman Casey for his kind words and expressed that it was his honor and privilege to have served. He offered guidance to the future Council and wished them well.

Mayor Weiss motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Lackey

Vote to Adjourn

Yeas – Weiss, Lackey, Casey

Nays – None

Meeting Adjourned