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**BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES - APRIL 5, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall on Monday, April 5, 2010. The Meeting was called to order 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Vahalla. The Invocation given by Councilmember Weber and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor advised that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by an annual notice sent to the Home News and Tribune and the Star Ledger and filing a copy with the Borough Clerk within seven days following the annual organization meeting of the body.

Present were Councilmembers Cammarano, Manley, Morrison, Rubin, Waldron and Weber.

Also present were Mayor Vahalla, Borough Administrator Boerth, Borough Attorney Frizell, and Borough Clerk Lacina.

AGENDA SESSION

Mayor Vahalla began the Agenda Session with the following discussion:

- Hailey's Harp & Pub Place to Place Transfer - extension of premise.

Mr. Frizell noted to the Council that an application for a liquor license show the parameters of the licensed premise. The original application only allowed for liquor to be served within the building and Hailey's Harp & Pub is looking to extend their licensed premise to allow service in the outdoor seating area. Mr. Frizell noted that the outdoor seating area at Hailey's Harp and Pub does not extend into the borough right of way.

Councilmember Weber noted that he had contacted the Planning Board Secretary to get the provision for sidewalk cafes. Councilmember Weber noted that Hailey's is in compliance with the provisions.

Mr. Frizell noted that the café regulations do not apply in this case as the tables are actually on their private property. Mr. Frizell noted that guidelines would need to be established to address situations like this.

Councilmember Weber noted the current tables look to be about 36" and the area is cordoned off with a removable rail.

Councilmember Manley suggested that access to the area be restricted from the indoors only.

Council President Cammarano agreed that the rails are necessary, as is access from indoors only. Council President Cammarano suggested that the outdoor service times be restricted in order not to become an annoyance to the residents that live above the retail on Main Street.

Councilmember Weber asked if the Borough could allow the outdoor seating on trial basis.

Mr. Frizell stated that the following conditions can be placed on the transfer:

1. Unless the Council adopts a Resolution to permit a subsequent or permanent amendment to the License; the within permission to use the outdoor area for service/consumption of alcohol shall expire on June 30, 2010.
2. The 36" rail separating the licensed area from the public sidewalk shall be maintained at All times to prevent passage. Access to the outdoor licensed area shall be solely from within the licensed establishment.

3. No service shall be made in the outdoor area after 10:00 P.M. on weekdays, 11:00 P.M. on Friday and Saturday.
4. Tables shall be a maximum of 36" in diameter, or 36" square, and shall be no higher than 30".
5. Service in the outside area shall be limited to seated customers being served food. No standing service/consumption shall be permitted.

Councilmember Waldron then made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Manley.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen, New Jersey, that the public shall be excluded from the portion of the meeting to be held on 2010 at the Borough Hall at which the following subject matter will be discussed:

PERSONNEL

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion to be held by the Mayor and Council on such subject matter shall be disclosed to the public at the resolution of the respective matters.

Dated: April 5, 2010

The Council returned to Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Vahalla questioned if the Council had any questions/comments on the agenda.

Councilmember Waldron noted that OEM Coordinator Jim Graziano had made the following information available:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of New Jersey to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on March 12, 2010, and continuing. Residents of Metuchen may qualify for assistance. Go to <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or call (800) 621-3362 (FEMA) to apply or for additional information.

Councilmember Waldron then made the following statement:

"On the weekend of March 12, Metuchen was overwhelmed by an unexpected and powerful storm. It caught my of our residents by surprise as no warning from the normal outlets was received.

We here in Metuchen had the privilege of observing our employees and volunteers harmoniously work side by side safely and with purpose, in adverse conditions, for prolonged hours, with little rest or food. These professionals jumped into action to protect our town, its residents, visitors, and passerby. Many of them worked for what appeared to be 24 hours straight. I personally would start the day seeing Public Works addressing a felled tree and then 18 hours later addressing conditions on Main Street.

These professionals responded competently and professionally to protect what is important to us - our families, our homes, our neighbors, our town. While it may be oversimplified and considered just a "storm", it was so much more as those professionals provided us with a glimpse into how they would respond in the event of a major event. Their training prepared them exceptionally well to provide us with the protection and

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service we have become accustomed to and which some take for granted. Perhaps more importantly, without the leadership provided to these professionals we may have had a different outcome to events.

As a result, I believe it is incumbent upon us to issue a Resolution as a body honoring these men and women, by and through their leaders, specifically,

Police – Chief James Keane
DPW – Fred Hall
Fire Department – Chief Robert Donnen
First Aid – Lisa Garris
Auxiliary Police – Captain Richard D'Anna

We are honored and fortunate to have not only these leaders in our town, but their employees and volunteers who courageously responded to assist and protect Metuchen. They are each worth their weight in gold and we should be very grateful for what we have.” Councilmember Waldron asked that Proclamation honoring our emergency services providers be placed on the next agenda.

Councilmember Rubin noted that the downtown merchants asked if the Council could address the overuse of *Silly String*. Councilmember Rubin noted the product is damaging property and littering the sidewalks.

Mayor Vahalla stated that he thought the *Silly String* activities were only done during the Country Fair and there was a plan for that this year.

Mr. Frizell noted that matter becomes police enforcement under the anti-lettering laws.

Councilmember Manley stated that the Chamber of Commerce should just approach the business that sells the string to the kids.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, the Regular Minutes of March 15, 2010 were approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-7

The Borough Clerk presented an Affidavit of Publication for Ordinance No.2010-7.

Council President Cammarano made motion to receive and file the Affidavit, which was seconded by Councilmember Weber, with all in favor.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title:

**Ordinance No. 2010-7 Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance No.
2010 – 7 - An Ordinance to Release, Vacate and Extinguish
any and All Public Rights in and to Certain Alleys in Block
56 and Block 59, in the Borough of Metuchen.**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen in the County of Middlesex is of the opinion that the public interest will best be served by abandoning, vacating, releasing and extinguishing any and all public rights which said Borough may have in and to the following described alleys.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public rights and interests of those certain alleys in the Borough of

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Metuchen, more particularly described as follows are hereby vacated, abandoned and released:

(a) The alley located between Maple Avenue and Talmadge Avenue, being 20 feet wide, and approximately 750 feet long, and extending from Centre Street on the west to the easterly lot lines of Lots 40 on the west side and lot 29 on the east side in **BLOCK 59**; and the 10.45 foot wide alley located adjacent to Lot 36-39 only, Block 59, extending from Talmadge Avenue on the south side a distance of approximately 125 feet north to Maple Avenue, encompassing lots 36 to 39 located in Block 59 as shown on the Tax Assessment Map of the Borough of Metuchen.

(b) The 15 foot wide alley located adjacent to Lot 33, Block 56, extending from Martin Street on the west a distance of approximately 315 feet east to the easterly boundary of 54, Block 56 as shown on the Tax Assessment Map of the Borough of Metuchen.

2. Expressly reserved and excepted from this vacation are all rights and privileges possessed at the time of passage of this Ordinance by public utilities, as defined in **N.J.R.S. 48:2-13**, and by any cable television company, as defined in the "Cable Television Act", P.L. 1972, c. 186 (c. 48:5A-1 et. seq.), to maintain, repair and replace their existing facilities in, adjacent to, over or under the alley. or part thereof, vacated.

3. It is the intention of this Ordinance, subject to the exceptions set forth in Paragraph 2 herein, to terminate the public easement in the alleyways described herein and to vest the abutting owners with all right, title and interest of the Borough of Metuchen to the Center line of said alleyways.

4. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistency only.

5. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law.

INTRODUCED: March 15, 2010

FINAL ADOPTION: April 5, 2010

(This entire Ordinance can be found in Ordinance Book #2)

The Mayor opened the public hearing on this Ordinance.

Hearing no comment, the Mayor closed the public portion.

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, this Ordinance was passed on second reading and ordered published according to law.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES - Councilmembers Morrison, Waldron, Weber and Council President Cammarano.

NAYS - Councilmember Manley and Rubin.

ABSENT - None.

COMMUNICATIONS
CONSENT AGENDA

5. Receive the minutes of the following meetings:

- Parking Authority – February 16, 2010
- Traffic & Transportation – March 10, 2010

6. Letter from American Legion Auxiliary requesting permission to hold their Annual Poppy Days during the month of May 2010 – receive and approve.

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, with all in favor, Items No. 5 and No. 6 were received and/or approved.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBERS

Council President Cammarano provided the following a Police Department report:

- Citizen’s Satisfaction Survey is now available to the public. Surveys can be picked up at Borough Hall, Police Department, Police Records, the Borough’s website, Library, Senior Citizen Center and senior housing on Lincoln Avenue, Metuchen Matters and MeTV. The Police Department is looking for feedback to determine if any improvements can be made to quality of life concerns and other police services.
- As of April 1st a new law went into effect requiring motorists to stop and stay stopped while a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.
- With warmer weather come various scams to homeowners. The Police Department encourages residents to call the Police Department to report any door to door soliciting for home improvements.

Councilmember Weber noted the Parking Authority has installed the new meters. The Authority is monitoring the revenue from the new meters, which allows the first ten minutes free. Councilmember Weber noted the revenue from the meters comes back as a direct revenue to the Borough.

Councilmember Waldron noted the Environmental Commission will meet on April 21st and will be finalizing plans for their Earth Day events. The Earth Day Clean Up will begin at 9 a.m. at the Senior’s Center and will conclude with a public education session after the morning activities.

Councilmember Rubin noted that the Library will celebrate national Library Week April 11-17, 2010. The dedication of the Teen Corner will take place on April 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Councilmember Rubin then presented the following Chamber of Commerce report:

- A “Metuchen Cares” economic Forum will be held at the Metuchen Senior Citizen Center on April 7th at 5:30 p.m. The 90 minutes seminar will focus on downtown revitalization and renewal.
- A free series of eight re-employment sessions will provide job seekers with step-by-step professional job search advice – from organizing your search, understanding your strengths, and developing a resume – to researching the market, interviewing, and negotiating your job offer. Register at www.reemploymentseries.org to take advantage of this career-building opportunity! When Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, starting March 22 and ending May 10, 2010.

Councilmember Morrison noted the EMS will be participating in a vehicle donation for non-profits program. Information is available at v-dac.com. Residents interested in volunteering with the Squad can provide EMT services and/or administrative help. Donations are always welcome. Please contact Lisa Garris at the Squad.

Councilmember Morrison noted the following Cultural Arts upcoming events and

programs:

- April 9th- reception for the new artist displays at the Gallery at the Rotunda featuring Kim Adlerman and Robert Stetz.
- April 18th - trip to Philadelphia's Magic Gardens Urban Mural Project-cost \$35.
- April 16th at 8:00 p.m. Coffeehouse Series presents "Blind Lemon Cello", a musical trio whose music spans jazz, blues, and pop at the BIL. Admission is \$5 (seniors and students \$4) and no reservations are necessary. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit the website at www.metuchennj.org or call (732) 632-8502.
- The Junebug ArtFest - Downtown Metuchen every Friday night in June from 6-10PM. The committee is looking for artists to participate.

Councilmember Morrison noted that volunteers are still needed for the Auxiliary Police. Interested residents may contact Councilmember Morrison, Police Chief Keane or Auxiliary Captain Dana.

Mr. Frizell urged that the EMS look very carefully into the vehicle donation program. The IRS is cracking down on the deductibility of donated cars.

Councilmember Manley noted the Youth Service Board is working in putting together the sign campaign before prom and graduation season.

Councilmember Manley noted the TV and Technology Committee is researching municipal websites in order to put together specifications for a revised website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Frizell had no report.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Boerth noted the Borough has received renewal quotes from two carriers for health insurance services. Presentations will be made at the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Vahalla nominated Warren Brooks for appointment to the Emergency Management team. A motion to confirm the nomination was made by Council President Cammarano and seconded by Councilmember Morrison. The nomination was confirmed by all.

Mayor Vahalla noted the Dismal Swamp Preservation Committee would meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday alternating between Metuchen and South Plainfield borough halls.

Mayor Vahalla announced that Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblymen Peter Barnes and Patrick Deignan have extended an invitation to participate in a public hearing on the Governor's budget proposal for the Fiscal Year 2011. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 14th from 6PM-9PM at the Middlesex County Community College Center, Cafeteria C.

Mayor Vahalla noted that a contract has been entered into with PSE&G to change over the street lights to a "greener" alternative.

Mayor Vahalla also noted that after a meeting with Edison Mayor Ricigliano, a letter was sent to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation requesting the Route 27/287 Interchange move forward.

Mayor Vahalla then presented the Fire Department report. The Fire Department answered 80 alarms; volunteered 806 hours to alarms and emergencies and 279 hours to drills and training during the month of March 2010.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment.

Elliott Jarmin, 80 Main Street, noted that he has been requesting the removal of a Borough Shade tree for years. Mr. Jarmin noted that a large branch has fallen from the tree already causing an accident. Mr. Jarmin noted that he would like the tree removed.

Mayor Vahalla noted that the tree would be attended to.

Stan Lease, 28 Franklyn Place, praised and thanked the Council for working together. Mr. Lease also noted the Citizen's Police Academy is great opportunity for residents to learn the duties of the Police Department, at any age.

Hearing no further comment, the Mayor closed the public portion.

NEW BUSINESS
CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-66

WHEREAS, bids were received by the Borough Administrator on March 26, 2010 for the Computer Aided Dispatch System for the Borough of Metuchen; and

WHEREAS, Law Soft Inc. was the only bidder on the CAD System; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended the award on said bid; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available in the 2010 capital budget in the amount of \$67,575.00 as evidenced by the Finance Officer's certification,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the contract for the Police Department CAD System for the Borough of Metuchen be and the same is hereby awarded to Law Soft Inc., 15 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite 2, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403 on their bid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract for same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the certified check or bid bond of the successful bidder:

1. Law Soft, Inc., Bloomingdale, NJ.

are to be returned upon the receipt of a fully executed contract and other required documents.

Dated: April 5, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-67

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector received the necessary amount to redeem the following Tax Sale Certificate on the following property:

<u>Cert #</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Lienholder</u>
09-00001	45.1/1	Aylin Street	Michael Karanenski

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel this lien from the municipal records.

Dated: April 5, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-68

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen desires to participate in a grant program by submitting an application to the NRA Foundation Inc., for the purchase of individual Patrol Officer kits for treatment of serious injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen as follows:

- 1) The Borough of Metuchen is hereby authorized to participate in the FY 2010 NRA Foundation Inc., grant program ; and
- 2) The Chief of Police be and is hereby designated to serve as the coordinator of the Program on behalf of the Borough of Metuchen and in cooperation with the NRA Foundation.

Dated: April 5, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-69

WHEREAS, bids were received by the Borough on March 23, 2010 for the Metuchen Municipal Pool Maintenance; and

WHEREAS, aquatic Service was the only bidder on the Metuchen Municipal Pool Maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Pool Commission has recommended the award on said bid; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the contract for the 2010 Metuchen Municipal Pool Maintenance be and the same is hereby awarded to Aquatic Services Inc., 170 Burlington Avenue, Spotswood, NJ 08884..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract for same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the certified check or bid bond of the successful bidder:

1. Aquatic Services, Spotswood, NJ.

are to be returned upon the receipt of a fully executed contract and other required

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documents.

Dated: April 5, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-70

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 of the Local Budget Act provides that temporary appropriations shall be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following additional temporary emergency appropriations shall be made for the year 2010, effective April 5, 2010:

Administration & Executive	SW	38,000.00
Mayor & Council	SW	2,500.00
Clerk	SW	14,000.00
Financial Administration	SW	40,000.00
Tax Assessment	SW	15,000.00
Municipal Court	SW	30,000.00
Prosecutor	SW	3,300.00
Construction	SW	30,000.00
Uniform Fire Safety	SW	6,000.00
Police	SW	700,000.00
Emergency Management	SW	1,400.00
METV	SW	16,000.00
Buildings & Grounds	SW	17,000.00
Streets & Roads	SW	83,000.00
Garbage & Trash	SW	25,000.00
Sewers	SW	35,000.00
Parks & Playgrounds	SW	30,000.00
Recreation	SW	15,000.00
Senior Center	SW	10,000.00
Library	SW	100,000.00
Zoning	SW	14,000.00
Recycling	SW	3,000.00
Legal	SW	10,000.00
Forestry	SW	29,000.00
Legal	OE	10,000.00
Fire Hydrants		46,000.00
Public Works	OE	500.00
Streets & Roads	OE	10,000.00
Animal Control		5,000.00
County Health Services		12,000.00
County Library Consortium		7,000.00
Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund		81,000.00
Street Lighting		40,000.00
Utilities		40,000.00
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel		20,000.00
Telephone		15,000.00
PERS		529,371.00
PERS		251,896.00
FICA		60,000.00
Group Insurance		200,000.00
	TOTAL	2,594,967.00

Dated: April 5, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-71

Resolution - Refund of Sidewalk Escrow Fee #10-003 S

WHEREAS, Debra Hirsch posted \$480.00 for sidewalk escrow fees,

WHEREAS, the Planning Board Secretary has requested that the escrow fees be refunded to Debra Hirsch,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Debra Hirsch be refunded \$480.00 from the Sidewalk Inspection Escrow account.

Dated: April 5, 2010

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember , with all in favor, the above Resolutions No. 2010-66 through No. 2010-71 were adopted.

PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-64

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen is the owner of the following surplus equipment, which is no longer needed for public use:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>YEAR/MAKE/MODEL</u>	<u>VIN/SERIAL #</u>	<u>MIN.</u>
<u>BID</u>			
Police Department	1995 BMW 740	4WBAGF6320SDH0076	\$1,500.00
Public Works	Meyers Snow Plow 8'6" fits FORD F350 -	Never used but parts missing	\$ 200.00
Public Works	1991 Ford E350 12 passenger bus	1FDKE37G1MHB34789	\$1,000.00
Fire Department	2000 Crown Victoria	12FAFP71W8YX196368	\$1,500.00
Library	Various Office Equipment		

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen desires to authorize the sale of the above surplus equipment at public sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36, to the highest bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of Metuchen hereby declares the above described surplus equipment is no longer needed for public use.
2. All vehicles and equipment will be auctioned off in an "as is" condition.
3. The Borough of Metuchen, its officers and attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to proceed with a public sale of said surplus equipment. The sale will take place **Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Police Department Garage**, 501 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen.
4. A deposit equaling 10% of the bid price in the form of cash or certified check made payable to the Borough of Metuchen, must be left for any item over \$500 with the balance to be paid within two working days.
5. The notice of the date, time and place of the public sale together with a description of surplus equipment and the conditions of sale, shall be published in The Home News, the official newspaper of the Borough of Metuchen, with the sale

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being held not less than seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) days after publication of said notice. The surplus equipment will be sold on a cash basis to the highest bidder(s).

6. No limit shall be placed on the number of surplus equipment that can be purchased by any one bidder.
7. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated: April 5, 2010

Councilmember Morrison noted the EMS has an borough owned ambulance which could also be auctioned.

Mayor Vahalla noted that the Borough is having Raritan Bay EMS prepare an estimate for the vehicle. However, the Mayor noted that the Fire Department would be interested in the vehicle also.

Hearing no further comment, a motion was made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, with all in favor, the above Resolution No. 2010-646 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-65

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A
CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH PROSECUTOR**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen has a need to acquire *the services of a Borough Prosecutor* as of April 16, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$5,000; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *the calendar year 2010*; and

WHEREAS, *William Feingold, Esq.* has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide the *service of a Borough Prosecutor* for \$13,000, which will be prorated for the remainder of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of the total contract for Borough Prosecutor shall not exceed \$13,000 and funds shall be available in the 2010 budget as evidenced by the Chief Financial Officer's Certification; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with the firm of William Feingold Esq., 7 Cooke Avenue, Carteret, NJ 07008
2. A notice of this action shall be printed once in The Home News Tribune.

Dated: April 5, 2010

Councilmember Waldron noted that the Prosecutor's salary was increased 2 ½ years ago and suggested the Borough take the opportunity to lower the salary back to the 2008 appropriation.

Mayor Vahalla noted the Borough of Metuchen is the lowest paying municipality for Prosecutor.

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Councilmember Waldron noted that in these difficult financial times, the salary should be lowered to the previous rate.

RECORD OF VOTE

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB	COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB
CAMMARANO	X				RUBIN	X			
MANLEY		X			WALDRON		X		
MORRISON		X			WEBER	X			
MAYOR'S VOTE	X								
MOTION	CAMMARANO				SECOND	WEBER			
X- INDICATES VOTE	AB- ABSENT			NV-NOT VOTING					

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

BILL RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the proper warrants be drawn and all bills paid totaling **\$336,474.41**.

Dated: April 5, 2010

I, Rebecca Cuthbert, Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Metuchen do hereby certify that funds are available for the payment of bills for the Borough of Metuchen.

/s/ Rebecca Cuthbert, CFO

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, with all in favor, this Resolution was adopted.

BUDGET WORKSESSION

Mayor Vahalla noted that the Borough Administrator had offered a list of cuts at the last meeting. The Mayor also noted that a letter had been sent to all the unions requesting they also take a 0% wage increase this year.

Mayor Vahalla noted that the lease-purchase program offered through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority was looked into and the final cost of the vehicle would be much higher than if the Borough bought it outright now.

The Mayor also noted that a cut to six (6) crossing guard positions was suggested and after further review, only three seem to be expendable.

Councilmember Manley noted that the crossing post at the driveway of Bounty and Moss School was suggested to be cut. However, there has been comment that the crossing guard is actually more of a traffic cop and jockeys both pedestrians and motorists. Councilmember Manley requested that post not be eliminated.

Councilmember Waldron noted all the posts have been reviewed by the Police Department and a recommendation was made to eliminate six post. Councilmember Waldron agreed with the elimination of all six.

Mayor Vahalla noted the net savings to the borough would be \$7,500 for three posts and may not be the soundest cut. Mayor Vahalla noted the Board of Education may need to eliminate courtesy bussing for next year and that will put more pedestrians on the road.

Council President Cammarano also noted that the post with traffic lights are also so busy, a

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crossing guard is necessary.

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Mayor Vahalla agreed that a low volume crossing is a high volume intersection and the safety of the students must be considered.

Councilmember Weber noted that \$2,000 cut to the MeTV budget was proposed. Councilmember Weber questioned if that cut could be increased.

Mr. Boerth stated the appropriation was for expendable items that are used day to day; minor repairs, dvd, equipment maintenance and repair and other maintenance agreements.

Councilmember Weber suggested that the appropriation be lowered to \$15,000.

Mayor Vahall then suggested a cut to EMS of \$4,000.

Councilmember Morrison noted that the EMS only received the \$4,000 increase last year, after 19 years of no increase. Councilmember Morrison suggested that all volunteer budget be treated equally and cut by 10%: EMS \$1,600, Fire Department \$30,000 and Auxiliary Police \$700.

Council President Cammarano stated that the Fire Department cannot be treated the same as EMS. Councilmember Cammarano noted the EMS coverage is below 40% and noted that the extra \$4,000 will not change the number of in-house responses.

Councilmember Morrison stated that EMS with its current budget is losing money to provide a free service. Councilmember Morrison noted the EMS is not entitled to the capital budget and the contribution that is given to the squad that is meant to be a stipend gets donated back to keep the squad operational.

Mayor Vahalla noted that the state mandates a Fire Department.

Councilmember Morrison noted that even with the cuts proposed by Mr. Boerth, the Fire department will still realize a 5% increase.

Mayor Vahalla stated the Council should also factor in the \$26,000 paid to Edison to provide daytime EMS coverage.

Councilmember Morrison noted that extra \$4,000 in their contribution allows them to keep operating.

Council President Cammarano stated that although he is sympathetic to their hardship, all departments have been asked to take a cut.

Councilmember Manley noted that even with a \$12,500 cut to the Fire Department budget, it is more than was spent last year.

Mayor Vahall offered another alternative. The mayor noted that the current increase is 7.8%. The Mayor stated the alternative would include the cuts recommended by Mr. Boerth.

Mr. Boerth noted that with the cuts, the Borough is still \$260,000 from the 4% levy cap. Mr. Boerth stated this presents concerns for next year when the Governor may institute a hard 4% cap or even bring it down to 2 ½%.

Mayor Vahalla noted that an increase would be less than \$1/month per household to keep the services. The Mayor warned that next year would bring harder constraints.

Councilmember Weber questioned if the Shade Tree budget could be trimmed.

Mayor Vahalla noted the current appropriation only allows for the purchase of 50 replacement trees. The Mayor stated that the character of the town needs to be considered, when 500 trees get taken down and need to be replaced.

Councilmember Waldron questioned if the Commission could regroup this year, review the study and continue next year with plantings.

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Councilmember Rubin clarified that the Shade Tree Commission does not remove the trees. The Commission only chooses the replacements. Councilmember Rubin noted that the trees in the study need to be attended to and replacement trees are needed. Councilmember Rubin noted the Commission was meeting next week and stated that she would bring the suggestion to them.

Councilmember Manley noted that the Director of Public Works offered a great suggestion for savings by allowing grass clippings to be mixed with regular garbage. Councilmember Manley noted the potential exists to save \$52,000.

At this time the Council took a 5 minute recess and returned at 9:15 p.m.

Councilmember Manley questioned the status of the Senior Citizen Director replacement.

Mr. Boerth stated the current Director put together a report of her duties and suggested the Center be converted to a 3 day/week schedule or 5 days with reduced hours. Mr. Boerth stated the position will be advertised for part-time with no health benefits.

Mayor Vahall noted that 3 day/week schedule would be problematic to run with transportation.

Councilmember Morrison noted that the Cultural Arts Committee would be cut \$5,000.

Mr. Boerth stated that the Cultural Arts Committee can replace those funds with their trust fund.

Mr. Boerth also noted that the salary & wage appropriation for the Public Defender will be made up the Municipal Court trust fund.

Councilmember Manley questioned the Parking Authority contribution amount.

Councilmember Weber noted it would be \$672,000.

Mr. Boerth stated that he would review those amounts and noted that anticipated revenue is hard to adjust for.

Councilmember Manley suggested the Borough go on-line with the recycling calendars and save the printing expense.

Mayor Vahalla noted that some printed copies would need to be made available.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NEW BUSINESS MATTERS ONLY

The Mayor opened the public hearing.

Stan Lease stated that he hoped the Board of Education was as thorough as the Council in reviewing their budget.

Hearing no further comment, the Mayor closed the public portion.

On a motion made by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilmember Weber, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

BOZENA LACINA, RMC
Municipal Clerk