

Merchantville, NJ

May 15, 2006

A special joint meeting of Borough Council and the Board of Education was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 15, 2006 in the Merchantville Public School auditorium. Mayor Patrick J. Brennan presided. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer were observed. Announcement was made that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

ROLL CALL:

Council Present: Alloway, Fields, North and Finnegan

Council Absent: Pagano and Zeiders

Borough Clerk Thomas was present.

PUBLIC: Mayor Brennan stated that this was a special joint meeting of the School Board and Borough Council. The 2006 – 2007 school budget was defeated by the voters and this meeting is required by state statute as Borough Council must make line item specific cuts to the defeated budget via an adopted Resolution; the School Board only needs to implement the final dollar amount.

Jeanne Collins, 116 Poplar Avenue, is grateful for the time dedicated by Borough Council and the School Board. It appears that large amounts of monies are spent on Special Education students out of the area. Mayor Brennan states that the defeated budget was not the "first" budget and the school had very little leeway with regards to special needs students. There was no way to research why people moved into town. Once they were residents, they were entitled to attend Merchantville Public School.

Sharon Stine, Merchantville Board of Education, stated that each child's progress is reviewed yearly.

Colleen Kelly, 23 Chapel Avenue, asked for an explanation regarding the change of the Principal/ Superintendent position to a Councilor. Mayor Brennan responded that Council's lone responsibility in this matter is to examine the defeated budget and has no power over the School Board. They are an independent party. **Mary Beth Creamer**, 19 Locust Street, suggested meetings to discuss the elimination of positions that have recently become available due to retirement? **Mrs. Stine** said that it will be discussed during regular board meetings. The guidance councilor position has not been advertised as of yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

DEFEATED 2006-2007 SCHOOL BUDGET: Mayor Brennan stated that Borough Council is mandated by State statute to examine and make recommendations via resolution within a specific time period.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL BUDGET: On the motion of Mr. North, second of Mr. Finnegan and a unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the following resolution:

R06-43**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the proposed 2006-2007 School Budget and separate proposal of the Board of Education of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden and State of New Jersey, were defeated at the annual election held on April 18, 2006; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 the Mayor and Education Committee of Council has met and consulted with a Committee of the Board of Education and the Assistant Superintendent at a meeting and desires to certify the amount deemed necessary to provide a through and efficient education; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville that certain revisions be made to the 2006-2007 budget of the Borough of Merchantville Board of Education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 15th day of May, 2006, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden and State of New Jersey, as follows:

That the amounts to be included in the taxes to be assessed, levied and collected in the Borough of Merchantville School Budget are:

TAX LEVY

General Fund - Original	\$3,868,209.00
Reduction	\$ 13,000.00
General Fund - Certified	<u>\$3,855,209.00</u>

SPECIFIC LINE ITEM REDUCTIONS AND SUPPORTING REASONS

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
11-000-291-270	Health Benefits	\$13,000.00	Premium adjustment

TOTAL TAX REDUCTION: \$ 13,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revised General Fund Budget to be raised from Local Tax Levy in the amount of \$3,855,209.00 is sufficient to provide a through and efficient system of schools in the Borough of Merchantville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Merchantville Board of Education, the Camden County Tax Board, the Merchantville Tax Assessor and two copies to the Camden County Superintendent of Schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Brennan added that the school board did a good job of producing a tight budget and hopefully the budget, revised as it is, serves its purpose.

ADJOURNMENT: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Finnegan the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

OREN R. THOMAS IV
BOROUGH CLERK