

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2012 - 276 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY TO ELICIT AND WEIGH INPUT FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WHEN CONSIDERING LEGISLATION THAT MAY AFFECT THOSE PUBLIC ENTITIES

WHEREAS, local government entities continue to struggle with fiscal restraints and escalating property taxes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities throughout the State have streamlined fiscal policies and made significant budget cuts in an effort to provide much-needed services with minimal impact to local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, it sometimes appears that State legislators repeatedly vote for legislation that precludes their bodies while imposing mandates on local government with no provision to fund these mandates; and

WHEREAS, local governments have spent countless hours and resources seeking to convey their concerns to State legislators only to be left feeling that their efforts are to no avail and their pleas have fallen on deaf ears; and

WHEREAS, like citizens across this state and this nation, West Milford residents are savvy voters who, by virtue of the actions of our State and Federal representatives, have developed skepticism for how their voices are heard; and

WHEREAS, we respectfully request that the State Senate and Assembly, beginning with our own representatives, Senator Joseph Pennachio, Assemblyman Jay Weber, and Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce cease the practice of enacting State laws that equate to State mandates if such legislation does not contain the funding required to effectuate same; and

WHEREAS, we implore our representatives in the Senate and Assembly to abide by the precept and concept of State mandate, State pay; and

WHEREAS, we beseech our representatives in the Senate and Assembly to vote "no" to any legislation that specifically excludes their respective bodies from compliance as is evidenced in S-1451 (Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act) and S-1452 (Martin O'Shea Open Public Records Act) which pieces of legislation are being referenced herein purely as examples of such exclusions; and

WHEREAS, we propose a new course to hold representatives accountable for those who fail to even hear our concerns about their fiscal irresponsibility and disregard for the effects these laws have on local budgets and property taxes; and

WHEREAS, we are hopeful that other municipalities and constituencies across this State will begin the practice of demanding acknowledgement from their respective State representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor & Township Council of the Township of West Milford that we do hereby demand that Senator Joseph Pennachio, Assemblyman Jay Webber and Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce begin, by virtue of their own votes in the Senate and Assembly, a practice of voting only for legislation that funds mandates and that holds each of them and their colleagues accountable to the standards they wish to legislate upon others.

Adopted: August 15, 2012

Adopted this 15th day of August, 2012
and certified as a true copy of an original

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk

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