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**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY**

Minutes of: Governing Body Workshop  
Date of Meeting: February 6, 2013  
Time of Meeting: 6:30 P.M.  
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 10

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The Workshop Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Bettina Bieri.

**Adequate Notice Statement**

Mayor Bieri read the following statement:

Please note that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this Workshop meeting was advertised in the Herald News in its issue of December 30, 2012 and January 6, 2013; copies were provided to the Suburban Trends, the Record, Star Ledger, and posted continuously on the bulletin board in the main corridor of the Town Hall and on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Please also make note of all fire and emergency exits – located to the left, right, and rear of this room - for use in case of an emergency. Thank you.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Bieri led all in attendance in a salute to the flag.

**Roll Call**

Present: Councilmembers Ada Erik, Mike Hensley, Edward Rosone, Luciano Signorino, CarlLa Horton, Mayor Bettina Bieri.  
Absent: Councilwoman Vivienne Erk.  
Also Present: Township Administrator Nancy Gage, Township Clerk Antoinette Battaglia, Township Attorney Frederick Semrau.

Mayor Bieri acknowledged Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce and Assemblyman Jay Webber who were in attendance noting that they spent the last 2.5 hours meeting with residents at town hall. The Assemblywoman thanked everyone for welcoming them to West Milford and fondly recalled prior visits to town. She said that West Milford is very important to them both and they hope to be here more often. She looks forward to representing West Milford residents in the Assembly. She thanked those who attended the meeting earlier and she recognized Mr. Semrau for whom she had kind words acknowledging that she worked with him for many years in Roxbury. Assemblyman Webber echoed the sentiments and thanked everyone for their hospitality.

Agenda No. II

**Reading of or Approval of Unapproved Minutes**

None.

Agenda No. III

**Meetings**

Mayor Bieri noted the future meeting schedule:

February 20, 2013 Regular Meeting  
March 20, 2013 Regular Meeting

March 6, 2013 Workshop Meeting

Agenda No. IV

**Presentations**

Budget - Auditor – Chuck Ferraioli distributed budget information to Council and advised that it looks different than in years past because government entities now file the annual financial statement online. He reviewed the net debt of the Township noting that it is down. He explained equalized valuation and how to calculate that adding that the trend is declining as a reflection of the real estate market. New Jersey, he said, is not seeing real estate rebound yet. West Milford has debt of less than 1% which is important for our credit rating but the declining real estate values are affecting that. He said that West Milford could increase debt by over \$1 million in accordance with New Jersey law although he would not recommend that. Mr. Ferraioli reviewed a comparison of the current 2013 budget versus the 2012 budget. Two items removed from each budget were debt service, he said, adding that debt service has increased because of the BANs and permanent funding. Bond principle increased as did our note payments. He had anticipated that last year and there will also be an increase next year. Notes will mature in 2013 and will be reissued based on current rates. He also pulled out grants because it is a revenue offsetting appropriations that does not affect tax values. The net operating budget has decreased by about \$97,555 which, he said, is a good start. He reviewed revenues. Revenue realized in excess of estimates goes into surplus. He reviewed his revenue calculations. Interest in investments came in at \$100,000 less than budgeted and the Township has to reduce our revenue from our bank agreement from \$350,000 to \$50,000 because of current rates. That is a significant reduction. Mr.

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Ferraioli reviewed fees realized and revenue from the State of New Jersey. The State, he said, has indicated that funding will remain flat this year. He spoke about possible revenue from the State to offset storm damage but said the Township is hoping to get that money from the federal government but we don't know that to be the case.

Mr. Ferraioli continued reviewing revenue advising that revenue from construction permits went down this year. There may be some redevelopment at the shopping center that may increase those numbers in 2013 but the process requires that estimates are based on this year's numbers. He reviewed other revenue sheets including grants. There will be more by budget adoption but the current number is \$753,947.15. He reviewed the general revenues in sheet advising that there may be a negative impact next year based on the amount of surplus being used in this budget. The FEMA allocations will change when we get approval from FEMA. Revenue calculations are down by \$837,438 because of actual revenue numbers this year which is a big reduction. Mr. Ferraioli has increased appropriations for receipt from delinquent taxes in this year's budget. He reviewed library contributions which are statutory and he reviewed surplus numbers.

Mr. Ferraioli used \$1,600,000 in surplus and put back \$2,573,154.25 which reflects an increase of \$973,000. He said the danger of using more surplus than he recommends is that it will affect next year's budget. We try to use surplus that we can regenerate the next year. He asked Council to consider adopting a surplus policy resolution and explained the benefits of that including the Moody's question about that. That is part of the best practice list and he will schedule that for future workshop discussion. He explained the deferred school tax process and how it affects the budget. There was an increase of \$421,014 because when the school tax levy goes up a dollar our surplus goes up \$0.50. He gave information as to how that compares to last year. He reviewed last year's surplus information. In 2011 the Township cancelled taxes of \$477,070.66. If we cancel taxes we have to pay the county & school share, or 100% of the levy. Last year we only cancelled taxes of \$83,242.92 indicating that the revaluation number held firm. That pushed up the tax collection rate which positively affected surplus. Mr. Ferraioli advised that there are a lot of delinquent taxes outstanding. Last year the Township started the foreclosure processes by hiring Mr. Klepesch. He encourages that continuing. That will be absolute surplus for future budgets if we collect. He said he is using \$1.2 million for delinquent taxes.

The Township's assessed value increased last year by \$4 million. Mr. Ferraioli explained the difference between assessed and equalized value. Tax points are calculated on a penny per hundred and every time the levy goes up by \$278,625 that equates to a tax point. The school and county numbers used in the budget are from last year because updated numbers will not be available until Governor's budget comes out. The County will introduce their budget at the end of this month and each entity has a 2% cap. The Council, Mr. Ferraioli said, is in charge of four areas of the budget; library, open space, the municipal levy and solid waste. If you adopted the budget today as it is, there would be a tax increase of \$78.91 for the average home. In response to Councilman Rosone, Mr. Ferraioli advised that West Milford's rating has remained level this year. The fact that our surplus is up is a positive factor. We are rated by both Moody's & S&P and he noted that there is a quality of life credit in the rating system. They look at outstanding debt and surplus as well as budget plans for future years, capital plans, and having an administrator. Councilman Rosone asked if the Township were to take on more bonding, how it would affect our rating. Mr. Ferraioli replied that if we pay off \$1-2 million this year and add that amount, it is a wash. If we substantially increase our debt it will affect us. If we stay within our capital plan we are okay. Moody's is satisfied with the level of debt we have and West Milford has a good payment record.

The Mayor & Council thanked Mr. Ferraioli.

Agenda No. V

**Executive Session**

~ Resolution No. 2013- 064 ~

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of West Milford on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013 that:

1. Prior to the conclusion of this Workshop Meeting, the Township Council shall meet in Executive Session, from which the public shall be excluded, to discuss matters as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, sub-section (s):
  - ( ) b. (1) Confidential or excluded matters, by express provision of Federal law or State statute or rule of court.
  - ( ) b. (2) A matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.
  - ( ) b. (3) Material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
  - ( ) b. (4) A collective bargaining agreement including negotiations.



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provide services & save money and Ms. Mulhern is just doing her job. Council President Signorino echoed that.

Agenda No. VI

**Public Comments**

Mayor Bieri opened the meeting to the public after advising that there is a five-minute limit for each speaker.

Greg Zackaroff, 50 Najavo Trail, West Milford said that he is concerned about JCP&L. Their performance has always been bad but is now worse. They are arrogant and disrespectful. West Milford appears to be meaningless to them as a customer base. They have promised change. These promises are no more than lip service. Things got worse in Hurricane Sandy. He reviewed his experiences during those days and weeks. Their maps were not accurate and they showed power restored where it was not. They are awful. The Township had the same experiences. He called OEM. He was told they were being told the same thing. The power was out for 15 hours this past Saturday night. That is a health concern. There was a prior discussion about changing providers. He asked Council to continue that process.

Judy Zeigler, 673 Macopin Road, West Milford said that Macopin is dark with no sidewalks or streetlights. She was taught to walk with traffic and ride against it. When she travels Macopin Road she sees young people walking with traffic. They don't move. They don't pay attention to what is approaching from behind. Please educate children she said. She is sponsoring a lifeline screening at Towne Tavern on February 19<sup>th</sup>. They test for various health problems which she listed and interested parties can register online. She will offer coffee and baked goods. It costs about \$100 to \$130 for these tests and they usually cost much more. Her restaurant is not charging anything but is providing this as a community service.

Alison Scully, 26 Orbit Road, West Milford said that she is a product of the preschool program. It was there before any of the affected businesses were there. She is a concerned taxpayer. Taxes continue to rise but benefits diminish. Now this valuable program will disappear. Her son has attended preschool for 2 years and she described how wonderful the program is. She commends the teachers who provide high quality education. These programs pay for themselves in economic and social benefits because of the positive adult outcomes.

Kimberly DeRobertis, 17 Green Terrace Way, West Milford moved here three years ago and enrolled son in preschool. The teachers are amazing. He loves being there. The teachers are not replaceable. The salaries are very low. The youth is our future. Our taxes are too high and now we are raising taxes and cutting programs. The West Milford school system, she said, has a low ranking. That is sad. Stop taking away productive wonderful programs. Cut something else. The parents are hoping that we keep the program but if you do please make a quick decision. Increase the tuition to save the program. Security is not an issue. The doors are locked and if someone wants to get in they will.

MaryAnn Stolin, 8 Paterson Road, West Milford is a health educator in town through Chilton. She has been in over 200 preschools in Bergen Passaic & Morris counties. This is one of the best. It is different than others. She now lives in West Milford and has children in preschool. She is happy to send her kids there. There may be other preschools in town but they are not run the same way. She arranges her schedule to do this. The dynamic is different in this school. Taking it away would be a disservice to taxpayers. The doors are always locked so safety is not a concern. Address safety concerns with safety gates. The doors were locked in Newtown.

Trish Tenhoeve, 15 Apple Lane, West Milford has two children one of whom is in preschool. The teachers are wonderful. The fact that there are 8 other preschools in town and a \$33,000 loss do not factor into the need to educate our children at a rate we can afford. Quality education reduces future crime. Is \$33,000 worth it? They will grow up and walk Macopin Road. She arranges her schedule to send her kids to this program. The teachers are wonderful. We need to research and be creative. It is unjust.

Scott Sandman, 17 Wayside Road, West Milford has his second child in the preschool program. One kid graduated and is now in kindergarten. He echoes the sentiments already expressed. The director has a job to do and would be remiss not to point out a budget shortfall. When it comes to prioritizing use of tax dollars, this is the highest priority. This program has been in place for over 30 years and competitors knew that when they started their businesses. He does not want to send his kid to a for-profit organization. He wants this program for its values. Every effort needs to be made to make this program break even. Other programs provide less of a benefit and he urged Council to continue the program.

Doris Aaronson, 19 Bearfort Road, West Milford thanked Marlene Terhune for a wonderful CASA program at the Elks. She thanked the Elks for supporting that. The presentation, she said, was informative. She thanked the Chief of Police & all police officers. She spoke about drug use, abuse and hepatitis. She warned of the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. She thanked the Council members who attended. She reviewed the suggestions expressed by elected officials to overcome this problem.



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last year's Council approved a budget that did not increase police staffing. He is on that committee this year and will do everything possible to make that work. He is pleased to hear that we are looking to increase drug awareness and supports those campaigns and efforts. Education starts at home and is reinforced at our schools.

Councilwoman Erik said that the Rice notices just allow the Council to discuss matters that involve personnel. They are required to have the conversation. She wants to hear more about Mr. Trout's ideas about police presence at schools.

Councilman Hensley thanked everyone for speaking tonight saying that he enjoyed reading the letters because they gave testimony to the program. He is an educator so it resonates with him. He got involved to encourage public participation and he urged people to come and use their voices. He thanked Mr. Trout for speaking about police patrols and children's safety. He is a substitute school teacher with a focus on history and is not always impressed with our current safety measures. He said that safety must be balanced against second amendment and constitutional issues that must be acknowledged. He sympathizes with the police. He said he agrees with Council President Signorino on JCP&L.

Mayor Bieri agrees that we should increase staff in police department and she thanked everyone for public input. Even if we don't like what is being said, we want to hear it. These comments are evaluated and have an impact. Ms. Mulhern, she said, was just doing her job. She asked for a consensus to determine how to proceed with the preschool issue. Council President Signorino said that we don't want to be too hasty and have other things going on. He asked when the budget process will be complete. Ms. Gage said statutorily by the end of April but that may not be possible. Mayor Bieri agreed that JCP&L is an ongoing discussion and she said the Council will continue to address ongoing issues. She said there was a meeting with JCP&L where experiences were highlighted and frustrations addressed. She described some of the complaints and reviewed some of the discussions. She said that the reason a company was hired to conduct a study of the police department was to determine our needs. The study said the department would be best served with 46 officers and all former chiefs said 48. We paid for that study and we should abide by the results. That number of 46 officers should be our target. She said that taxpayers expect to receive certain services which are expected for tax dollars not the least of which is police.

Council President Signorino said that our state legislators are working on legislation entitled fair school funding. He asked for consensus for attorney review of this proposed legislation and that it be scheduled for a workshop discussion. Asks for equal funding for all children/students in New Jersey. Aid would be per pupil rather than by area. We should advocate for that change. He has drafted a resolution and asked Fred to review it. He wants it sent to surrounding communities. Mayor Bieri said that (listen to tape). He said that utility companies self assess and they only have to pay taxes if they have 51% of the dial-ups in a town. They don't have to prove their numbers. He asked if the Township can withhold the monies this year. Mr. Semrau said that Verizon said they went under 50% and working with the assessor we made a determination to set the value at zero but we are filing an appeal to bring the number back up. That will help us from a budgetary standpoint. If we can't get this reversed the Township will not take the hit for school and county taxes put the Township will appeal to restore the number. He said his office is doing all they can do. To minimize exposure. United Telephone is paying their taxes under protest and the Township is trying to protect all our bases and he will keep the governing body updated.

Mayor Bieri questioned why there is no open list on open construction permits. Administrator Gage said she will look into that.

Agenda No. VIII

**Discussion Items**

1)	Contract – Ambulance – Ms. Gage asked if there are any questions or comments before we put a resolution on for action at the next meeting. She said staff needs direction on two items. Discussion ensued about the payment and Councilwoman Erik asked if we can ask questions of Rob Jirouschek who is in the audience. The Council agreed and Councilwoman Erik asked Mr. Jirouschek if these were very specific specifications. Mr. Jirouschek said they are the same as prior specifications with minor changes due to changes in technology. Discussion ensued about specifics to the bid specifications and requirements. Councilman Rosone agreed with accepting the \$48,000 payment but not to accept the waiver of the performance bond. Mr. Jirouschek said he thinks the trade in offer is very generous. Councilwoman said she rides for Ringwood and they are buying a new one for a lot less money. She said there is a \$20,000 difference in what they are paying and our bid. Councilman Rosone said he appreciates that comment but the company should have bid on this. Councilman Hensley said he trusts the finding of the report and wants to move forward. The Council gave consensus to move forward. Mr. Jirouschek said the bidder will hold the price if we agree to order a second ambulance. He asked if that was possible. Mr. Semrau said that it is good that
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	<p>they would hold that but under the local public contracts law a public entity cannot change the quantity in the bid. If Council approves an appropriation for a second ambulance we can go out to bid again. Councilwoman Horton asked if it would be better to back out and then go out to bid for two ambulances. Mr. Semrau advised that the Council can decide to bid for two vehicles and word it in a manner where you are not committed to two. Mayor Bieri asked if we can do a bond ordinance before the budget is approved to fund a bid for two ambulances. Discussion ensued about what the discount would be if the Township bought two ambulances. Mr. Jirouschek explained the history adding that based on the regulations, he recommends approving this bid. The Council gave consensus to proceed.</p>
<p>2)</p>	<p>Discussion: Boards, Committees &amp; Commissions – the Council discussed the merits of limiting absences on committees to six in one year. The Municipal Clerk advised that state statute allows eight absences in one year but gives discretion to local government entities to reduce that to six absences in one year. The Council asked for a definition of excused absences. The Council agreed that they would define excused absences as emergencies, family emergencies, health issues, or loss of loved one. These absences will be reported by the chair to the appointing authority. They approved the attachment of a memorandum to that effect to the citizen leadership form. The Council agreed that there is no need to reestablish the insurance committee or the transportation committee.</p> <p>BOE Subcommittee - The Council discussed establishing a subcommittee to meet with a subcommittee of the BOE. Mayor Bieri noted that Councilwoman Erk expressed a wish to serve on such a committee. Councilwoman Erik expressed a wish to serve also. Council President Signorino and Councilman Rosone said they each want to serve on such a subcommittee. Councilman Rosone said he has two children who have recently graduated and one who is a sophomore. He would like to be appointed. Councilwoman Erik said that she would like to serve because she is #3 of eleven children in her household and she has no children of her own. Council President Signorino said he is versed on all the issues that will come before the committee. Councilman Hensley recused. Councilwoman Erik nominated Signorino &amp; Rosone and Council President Signorino seconded that nomination. Councilwoman Erik made a motion to close &amp; confirm, seconded by Councilman Rosone and carried by unanimous roll call vote with Councilman Hensley recusing.</p> <p>MUA committee – Councilman Rosone questioned the need for such a committee saying that if the MUA is autonomous there is no need. Councilwoman Horton volunteered to serve. Councilwoman Erik nominated Councilwoman Horton and was seconded by Council President Signorino. Councilwoman Erik nominated Councilwoman Erk asking that she be given an opportunity to accept or decline the nomination. Council President Signorino seconded the nomination. The council gave consensus. Council President Signorino asked if the Council would appoint him as a liaison to the Newark Watershed Committee. He said he listened in on the conference call and was displeased to hear that what was being discussed. He said the speakers were not representing his view. He would like a Council liaison involved and he would like to serve in that capacity. Mayor Bieri and Attorney Semrau took exception to that depiction of the conference call noting that they were the primary speakers on the call and they conveyed the message that was approved by Council and no other message. Mayor Bieri noted that Council President Signorino was invited to participate in the conference call at Mr. Semrau’s request. Mr. Signorino, she said, did not state any objections during the call and she said she is affronted by the accusations he is making here tonight. The Council did not give consensus nor nominate Council President Signorino with certain members noting that they have confidence that the Mayor &amp; Attorney are conveying the vision of the Governing Body. Councilwoman Horton volunteered to serve on as liaison if such were warranted rather than have Council President Signorino pursue an agenda other than the consensus of the Council as a whole. Councilwoman Erik said that she has confidence in Mayor Bieri and Mr. Semrau representing the Council. Councilman Hensley nominated Council President Signorino. Councilman Rosone said this is supposed to be a positive thing for the town and he does not want it to be a big issue. Mr. Semrau cautioned everyone that this should be positive. Some things being stated now are not accurate. There is one mission he said and sometimes that requires leaving personal opinions aside. Council President Signorino said that the reason he mentioned it was that previously Mr. Semrau recommended a liaison and now it appears we have the Mayor who wants to do this alone. This is now being negative negative he said. He seconded the motion for his appointment as liaison. By roll call vote, the motion to appoint Council President Signorino as Newark Watershed Liaison was defeated with Messrs. Hensley &amp; Signorino voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Erik, Rosone &amp; Horton voting against the appointment.</p>
<p>3)</p>	<p>Discussion – Apple Acres/ROSI - Ms.Gage advised that some years ago for reasons unknown the Township sold a piece of property to a neighbor of Bubbling Springs. The property was designated for open space. We have to update our ROSI to get funding for Apple Acres &amp; Random Woods and the Township needs approval from Green Acres for the ROSI as soon as possible. The Township can designate a property for open space in lieu of that sold and the property would be encumbered by a restriction. The Council gave consensus to proceed.</p>

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4)	Discussion – Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission Request for Equipment Storage – Administrator Gage advised that the Commission is seeking approval to store equipment at Farrell Field. Councilman Hensley said that RAC wants to use that field more often for more sports. Councilwoman Erik said they want to put machinery where kids will be which may be a safety concern. Council President Signorino suggested storing the equipment at Wallisch. The Administrator said she will look into the feasibility of that.
5)	Discussion – JCP&L Class Action Suit – Council President Signorino asked what the process would be to file our own petition. Mr. Semrau advised that Marlboro is objecting to a rate increase at BPU. If we join that suit, West Milford can be heard. Marlboro wants certain conditions controlled by Marlboro. West Milford could list whatever relief the Township wishes. One thing he has heard is that West Milford would like an alternative source. He recommends filing alone but coordinating with Marlboro because then the Township can incorporate any concerns in the complaint. Mr. Semrau will draft the papers and report back to Council.
6)	Resolution – Supporting Sustainable State Funding for Preservation and Stewardship of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey (Environmental Commission recommendation) – the Council did not give consensus to proceed.
7)	Contract – Maintenance of Ball fields & Other Sites – the Council gave consensus to proceed.

Agenda No. IX

**Action Items**

~ Resolution No. 2013- 065 ~

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PASSAGE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of West Milford has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed Resolutions and Applications.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following Resolutions and Applications on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved:

**Resolutions:**

None

**Applications:**

1. Application for On Premise Draw Raffle License No. 2013-07 by Our Lady Queen of Peace Church for April 20, 2013.
2. Application for Tricky Tray License No. 2013-08 by Our Lady Queen of Peace Church for April 20, 2013.

Adopted: February 6, 2013

Moved: Erik Seconded: Rosone  
 Voted Aye: Erik, Hensley, Rosone, Signorino, Horton.  
 Voted Nay: None.  
 Motion carried.

**Approval of Expenditures**

Agenda No. X

~ Resolution No. 2013- 066 ~

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Treasurer has submitted to the members of the Township Council a report listing individual disbursement checks prepared by his office in payment of amounts due by the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Treasurer’s report of checks prepared by him be approved and issued as follows:

Acct #	Account Name	Amount
1	Current Account	\$737,185.73
2	Reserve Account	220,956.53
3	Animal Control Trust	0.00
6	Capital	18,560.57

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7	Grants	309.25
8	Refuse	99,992.55
9	Refunds.	0.00
12	General Ledger	0.00
16	Heritage Trust	0.00
14	Open Space Trust	0.00
17	Trust	2,625.00
18	Development Escrow	0.00
19	COAH	0.00
20	Special Reserve	0.00
11	Assessment Trust	0.00
Total		\$1,079,629.63
Less Refund Resolution		0.00
Actual Bill List		\$1,079,629.63
Other Payments		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$1,079,629.63</b>

Adopted: February 6, 2013

Moved: Erik Seconded: Signorino  
 Voted Aye: Erik, Hensley, Rosone, Signorino, Horton.  
 Voted Nay: None.  
 Motion carried.

Agenda No. XI

**Reports of Mayor, Administrator, Council Members, Attorney and Clerk**

Councilman Rosone thanked Assembly members DeCroce & Webber.

Council President Signorino expressed regrets at what happened tonight wherein his Council colleagues did not appoint him as liaison to the Newark Watershed Committee. He said there are different branches of government blurring the lines and he would like to see the legislative branch do more of their own work.

Councilwoman Horton said she does not regret the decision because we are sending someone there and it should be someone who will fight for the will of the Council as a whole. She said the Relay for Live campaign is having a kick-off meeting at the high school and she salutes them and urged participation. She thanked Bill Bassett for his service on the MUA. She said she received notification that Cablevision will have an optimum package for \$39.95. She asked that the Council work on surplus policy resolution. Even though she recused earlier she wants to thank all who spoke at tonight's meeting. She said she appreciates the suggestion of corporate contributions toward the preschool program.

Councilwoman Erik said that seniors at the Commons have had computer classes. She commended them. She advised that the 4H Club will be making a presentation at the next meeting.

Councilman Hensley asked for consensus to have a referendum question to utilize open space trust funds for recreation purposes as well as acquisition. He asked for future workshop discussion of this subject and Council agreed. He thanked everyone who came out tonight.

Mayor Bieri said she received a request from the Mayor of Woodland Park about draining reservoirs and asking that we adopt a resolution objecting to PVSC draining these three reservoirs. She asked for a future workshop discussion and asked Administrator Gage to do research. She said she received an email from the medical examiner recently called out on the missing hiker. She read it. He commended the West Milford search & rescue team.

Administrator Gage said budget meetings are scheduled for Saturday. Unless the storm comes, we will proceed. Council President Signorino had asked about the plaque at the proposed clock on the circle by Shop Rite. Ms. Gage said she will schedule that for a future workshop discussion.

Mr. Semrau said that there was significant response to the revaluation and many people claimed there were inaccuracies. The results are in now. Appeals were filed. Many lakefront people saw increased taxes but the assessor felt that the values were correct. He commended everyone here for going through the process. It is hard for elected officials to be subjected to this. The Council let the process vet itself out and he commended them. The process was validated through the appeals process. He also mentioned that he and Brian Townsend included in the bid specifications that the prevailing contractor

