

Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations of LBI

Minutes of Meeting May 5th 2008

Attendance

Bill Knarre, Brant Beach
Bill Kunz, Brant Beach
Peter Trainor, LBT 10
Lena Nerrie, Harvey Cedars
Lou Gura, Barnegat Lt.
Trish Monaco, LHO
Bob Monaco, LPOA
Mildred Hrbek, Loveladies
Laura Priedel, HBH

John Pegg, North Beach
Bob Irvine, LBT 10
Chas. Gaver, Harvey Cedars
Tom Day, Barnegat Lt.
Sarah Lambert, Barnegat Lt.
Gina Harle, LHO
Ruth Reeder, Loveladies
M. Bigham, Loveladies
Bob Muskas, Loveladies

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by President Bill Knarre

Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no minutes from the April meeting because of budget presentations by the school districts and no business was conducted. About 80 people were in attendance for the budget hearing.

UPDATES

Bill Knarre said that Long Beach Township was having a Municipal Election on May 13th and asked all LBT taxpayer associations to encourage their members to get out and vote.

Bill Knarre will speak at the Barnegat Light Taxpayers meeting on May 10th. He will also be speaking at the Loveladies Property Owners meeting on June 8th.

Sen. Connors office has been contacted again regarding the traffic problem in Ship Bottom.

OLD BUSINESS

Peter Trainor spoke about budget at SRSD and mentioned that there was a movement of funds to the budget that weren't previously allowed to be moved. This could affect the base for next years budget.

On LBI, Beach Haven, Ship Bottom, Harvey Cedars and Surf City approved the budget while Barnegat Light and LBT did not. In Stafford the budget was approved with a 68.7% yes vote.

It was discussed that we should have dialogue all through the year with Supt. Henry. We should also start sending questions to SRSD by Sept/Oct and try to open a dialogue with community groups in Stafford regarding the budget. Bill Kunz added that that we should monitor the current budget on a monthly basis and work with the questions that Pat

Moran formulated for us. Bob Irvine suggested that we have members attend the SR board meetings and invite the LBI board members of SR to one of our meetings. Tom Day agreed with this suggestion.

Bill Kunz spoke on the SRSD Strategic Planning Committee and the newly formed SR Education Foundation. The committee will start cataloging all students as to those who leave the district, pass/fail, entered college or went into the service etc. The new SR Education Foundation, which will raise funds outside the school for improving student functions, will not be a part of the taxpayer budget. There are currently 35 trustees on the foundation board and there will be kickoff meeting on May 22nd at the Holiday Inn in Stafford at 6:30PM. There will be chicken dinner and the tickets are \$25 with all of the money going to the foundation. The owner of the Holiday Inn is donating the facility and the food.

DEP revised rules for the Beach Project: Peter Trainor said that the new rules could be enacted this month. If so the Beach Project could proceed in sections of a town that has an area large enough to do it. The rules of the DEP would have to be followed in the project area and not the whole town. LBT has an area between 31st and 56th streets that could qualify. A state agreement would have to be signed by the town but no public hearing is required. All of the towns in the project area still have many easements unsigned. Peter also stated that the Island towns are spending \$60,000 annually on a lobbyist to help get funding from Washington for the project but we have not seen any report on the progress of the lobbyist. He also said that the towns should press for public meetings to answer questions about the quality of the sand being used and to prevent another situation like the one in Surf City involving the munitions found in the project pumped sand.

NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that the JCT should send a letter to the USACE (corps of engineers) before May14th to voice our opinion on the method of rechecking the beaches in Surf City and Ship Bottom for the munitions. All members associations will get a copy of the letter. The concern of the JCT is that if it isn't done thoroughly the munitions could wash into the surf after storms and further contaminate the Islands beaches.

A committee will be formed to discuss Shared Services between towns on the Island. When formed the committee hopes to meet with the Mayors of the 6 towns to share their recommendations.

Peter Trainor, Sarah Lambert and Laura Priedel are a nominating committee to present a slate of officers of the JCT to be elected at the June meeting.

A discussion was held to hear what was going on in each of the member associations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM.

NEXT MEETING -- JUNE 2nd 7:00PM SURF CITY LIBRARY