

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 22, 2008 @ 5:30PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CHEWS LANDING NEW JERSEY**

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Statement: Mr. Bianchini read a statement setting forth the time, date and place of this meeting, that it was properly advertised, posted and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Lovett	Mr. Carlamere, Solicitor
	Mrs. Evans	
	Mr. Garbowski	Mr. Thomas Cardis, Bus. Adm. - abs
	Mr. Hutchison	Mrs. Quintavalle, Asst. Twp. Clerk
	Mr. Mercado	Mayor Rau-Hatton
	Mr. Schmidt	
	Mr. Bianchini	

Public Portion:

Mayor Rau-Hatton gave an up-date on why we needed to pass Resolution R-08:12-347. She said she called the State today and spoke to Tina, Susan Jacobucci's assistant and she said meeting with the Local Finance Department was probably going to be delayed until February since the Governor's proposed Deferred Pension Plan was not dead yet and they are going to bring it up after their recess some time in January. Therefore, she said the Commissioner will not issue any extraordinary aid since it is all tied hand in hand. The Mayor said they probably will not be going up to the Local Finance Board until some time in February which puts us further along in our fiscal year budget which makes it more difficult for us. She said Council had asked them to come up with a letter when they do an estimated tax bill and she would like to do cards and send them out with the tax bills like they did the last time. It would be less costly to print and we would still have copies for residents to pick up. She said she would request they go above 105% because of the last two billings we had at zero percent and if it does not go above that 105% the tax payers will get hit hard in May right before the accelerated tax sale. She said until they can get the budget approved we need to have the resolution passed so we can pay our bills and send the money to the other entities we collect for. She said Chuck Palumbo, Dottie Jones and Sandy Ferguson were here tonight to answer any questions Council had.

Mr. Bianchini asked if the non-union members are getting any raises at this point for this budget year. She said she did not know.

Mr. Hutchison asked what was the number she wanted. She said the tax collector and CMFO suggested 1.123% and Mr. Bianchini said that comes to .24¢ increase. Mr. Hutchison asked if that would be enough. Mayor Rau-Hatton said yes and Mr. Hutchison stated that he just wanted to be sure if Council does what the Administration wants them to, that it would be enough to cover the budget. She stated that the State has all the work that the CMFO and Tax Collector prepared and that Council has received and at this time, all the State is waiting for is the resolution.

Mr. Carlamere asked if the notification lets the residents know when interest would accrue. The Tax Collector stated that it is automatically on the back of the bill and the residents will get the bill in plenty of time, so that the bills will be due February 1<sup>st</sup> and they will get a 10 day grace period and there will be no extension when interest will accrue. He said that as long as the date the interest starts to accrue is in the tax bill then that is okay.

Mr. Bianchini asked if the residents will get the tax bill in time to pay it and the Mayor said it has to be postmarked by January 15, 2009.

Mr. Mercado asked if the Mayor could provide Council with some kind of financial statement or fiscal statement along with the budget so they can address any of the phone calls Council received from scared educators in the school district asking if we need a bail-out, etc. The Mayor said that would not be a problem.

Mr. Bianchini asked if the information could tell them what is budgeted each month and how we are doing year to date. He felt this should get to Council by the first General Meeting each month not the Workshop.

Mr. Hutchinson asked the Mayor if we could do what mortgage companies do which is give out statements of cash flow.

Mr. Bianchini said we should be able to get a picture each month where we are in the budget.

Mr. Hutchison said he felt we wouldn't be rushed to approve this resolution if they had been made

aware sooner of the problem. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated we wouldn't be having this problem if the State had passed our budget and we were just moving along, because we would normally be billing at this time anyway. She said they had checked around with the schools just to see what options we had if we couldn't get this passed. The State was saying to do an estimated tax levy. Mr. Palumbo asked if we had a finance committee to discuss something like this with and Mr. Bianchini said he wouldn't want this discussed by just a few Council members. He would want everyone in on this type of discussion.

Mr. Garbowski asked if this was going to happen again and the Mayor said she certainly hoped not but we won't know until we see what next year brings.

Mr. Hutchinson wanted to know why we couldn't pass the extra cost we have to carry on to the entities that we are collecting the money for. Mr. Bianchini thought that was a good idea and beared looking into.

Mrs. Evans said she thinks we should revamp the way we are doing things. She also mentioned the low wages the ladies make in the Township and we should look at other towns and find new ways to finance the Township and increase the wages.

Mayor Rau-Hatton said due to the economy, stores are pulling out of the projects that are in the works. She recognizes by sitting on the Planning Board, that no one is coming in to build in this Township or any other for that matter, once again due to the economy.

Mr. Palumbo, the Assessor said the only reason they want this Resolution passed is so the Administration can get the tax bills out on time, which will enable us to pay the schools and the MUA and get revenue in.

**R-08:12-347                      RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX  
BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, C.72**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Gloucester has not adopted the Gloucester Township Municipal Budget for 2008 and the Gloucester Township Tax Collector will be unable to mail the Township's 2008 tax bills on a timely basis;

**WHEREAS**, the Gloucester Township Tax Collector in consultation with the Gloucester Township Chief Financial Officer has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance N.J.S.A.54:4-66.4, and they have both signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Township Council requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the estimated tax levy exceeding 105% listed below. Approval will enable the Township to meet its financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, provide uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, in the County of Camden and State of New Jersey on this 22 day of December, 2008 as follows:

1. The Gloucester Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Township for the third installment of 2008-2009 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed upon approval from the Director and take such actions as are permitted and required by P.L. 1994, c.72 (n.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54.4-66.4).
2. The Municipal estimated tax levy for 2008-2009 is hereby set at \$33,152,343.00. Therefore making the entire estimated tax levy for 2008-2009 including County, Schools and Special Districts in \$134,090,360.05.
3. In accordance with law the third installment of 2008-2009 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of February 1 or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

Adopted: December 22, 2008

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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TOWNSHIP CLERK, RMC

Mrs. Lovett made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mercado.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Lovett wanted to thank the Mayor, the CMFO, the Tax Collector, Olga, and The Assessor for all their hard work. She knows how difficult it has been without Mr. Cardis here and his expertise. She stated some members here had voted for a zero tax levy and if that had not been done that way, things may not have been as drastic as they are now. She said when she was in Trenton with the Mayor and Mr. Cardis, as the State said it was irresponsible for us to pass a zero tax levy. She voted yes. Mrs. Evans, Mr. Garbowski, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Schmidt also voted yes. Mr. Bianchini stated that this is a tough time for everybody and it amazes him when Mrs. Lovett comes up with her statements. He said she voted yes on that zero tax and even though we are sitting here trying to make things work, he said she had to bring the political side to it. He voted yes. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Mercado wanted everyone to know that Dan Conroy who served on the Recreation Committee passed away last night. He stated Mr. Conroy was an advocate for Glendora.

Mr. Mercado made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr Garbowski. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Quintavalle  
Assistant Township Clerk

President of Council