

**Pennington Borough Council
Special Meeting – May 11, 2010**

The joint meeting of the Hopewell Valley Regional School Board, Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Timberlane Middle School.

A statement was read indicating that the meeting had been properly noticed in the required publications.

Roll call was done for each entity. Ms. Sterling called the roll for Pennington Borough which found Mayor Persichilli and Council Members Chandler, Heinzl, Lawver, Ogren and Tucker in attendance. Council Member Griffiths was not in attendance due to a conflict of interest.

Following the flag salute the meeting was opened up for public input. Members of the public were allotted the opportunity to address the Board on any matter for a maximum of three (3) minutes. Many residents from the three municipalities came forward to voice their concerns regarding the process when the school budget is defeated at the polls. Several residents spoke in opposition to some of the proposed cuts and with concern about the fact that the Teachers Association was unwilling to consider not taking the contractual 4.9 percent increase for this year.

Following the public comment, the three municipalities considered the following resolution:

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, MERCER COUNTY, THE MAYOR AND
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON, MERCER COUNTY,
AND THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
HOPEWELL, MERCER COUNTY, CERTIFYING THE TAX LEVY
FOR THE HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, the Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education's budget for the 2010-2011 school year was rejected at the polls; and

WHEREAS, state law (*N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37*) requires the municipalities included in a regional district to consult with the board and, by May 19, to determine the amount that is necessary to be appropriated for each item appearing in the budget, and to certify to the County Board of Taxation the totals of the amount so determined; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Valley Regional School District is comprised of the municipalities of Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2010, representatives of the three municipalities attended a public meeting of the Board of Education to consult on the board's budget; and

WHEREAS, at the public meeting, the superintendent of schools presented the board's budget, school district staff answered questions about the budget from members of the governing bodies, and members of the public voiced their opinions about whether the budget should be maintained or reduced; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of the three municipalities held a joint public meeting on May 11, 2010, to determine the appropriate school tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies agree that the school board budget can be reduced without adversely affecting the stability of the district or the district's ability to offer a thorough and efficient education to its students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hopewell, and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pennington, as follows:

1. The original general fund tax levy on the ballot for the base budget of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District was **\$63,360,557**.
2. The amount of reduction to the general fund tax levy for the base budget is **\$1,000,000**.
3. The amount of general fund tax levy being certified by municipal government for the base budget is **\$62,360,557**.
4. The specific line item reductions and increases in budgeted revenues and the supporting reasons for each reduction are as follows:
 - a. Tuition Reimbursement, item 11-000-291-280, is reduced by \$165,000, due to concessions offered by the Hopewell Valley

- Education Association.
- b. Extra-curricular and athletic stipends, item 11-40X-100-100, is reduced by \$50,000, due to concessions offered by the Hopewell Valley Education Association.
 - c. Administrative professional development, item 11-000-240-500, is reduced by \$60,000, due to concessions offered by the Hopewell Valley Administrators and Supervisors Association.
 - d. Administrative salaries, item 11-000-240-103, is reduced by \$20,000, item 11-000-221-102 by \$18,000 item 11-000-221-104 by \$2,000, item 11-000-219-104 by \$2,000 due to concessions offered by the Hopewell Valley Administrators and Supervisors Association.
 - e. Salaries of support staff, item 11-190-100-106 is reduced by \$74,621, item 11-000-240-103, by \$35,067, item 11-000-251-100, by \$3,258, item 11-000-219-105, by \$7,337, item 11-000-221-105 by \$5,279, item 11-000-26X-100 by \$80,219 due to a contract extension with the Hopewell Valley Educational Support Professionals Association.
 - f. Salaries of elementary classroom teachers, item 11-120-100-101, is reduced by \$195,000, because it will increase class size but not have a significant impact on the educational program.
 - g. Administrative salaries, item 11-000-221-10X is reduced by \$117,219, due to a re-alignment of job responsibilities.
 - h. Miscellaneous revenue increase – increase pay to play cost to parents for extra-curricular activities by \$100,000.
 - i. Educational media salaries, item 11-000-222-100, is reduced by \$65,000, due to a re-alignment of job responsibilities.
5. The revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education to the students of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District.
 6. This budget, with the reductions made by the governing bodies, is not below the minimum T&E amount established by the State Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Mercer County Board of Taxation, the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools, and the Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education.

Council Member Lawver made a motion to approve the Resolution, second by Council Member Ogren and upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes with the exception of Mr. Tucker who voted no. Mr. Tucker read a statement expressing his reasons for voting no to the Resolution.

Following comments and action on the resolution by Hopewell Borough and Hopewell Township, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sterling
Borough Clerk