

Committee Meeting – November 15, 2010
MAYOR’S REPORT

BARNEGAT’S 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Last week our Administrator and I, along with Committeeman Lisella, our attorney and our auditor, appeared before the Local Finance Board in Trenton, to have our budget approved. As a result of recent policy changes, the Board denied our ordinance that we introduced to bond for our 2010 tax appeal losses as well as our proposal for utilizing the deferred school tax in the 2010 budget. They did approve our budget with a tax levy cap waiver. Our Administrator will explain further during his report but I can tell you that none of us up here are pleased about this situation. The property tax system in New Jersey is broken. The existing property tax system in New Jersey is based upon an assumption that property values will never decrease and when they do, there is no mechanism in place to promptly adjust property values except for engaging in a costly reassessment, which Barnegat is currently doing at a cost of upwards of \$400,000. This means that we must absorb well over 2 million dollars in tax appeal losses along with the corresponding increase in the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes of roughly \$700,000. The proposed budget that was presented to the State had merit and in my opinion, should have been approved, but it was not. While we disagree with the state, we acknowledge their decision and this leaves the Township with no alternative but to amend our budget tonight by resolution and adopt it in a timely manner.

In the upcoming year, 2011, we will be faced with a 2% cap on our budget and hopefully we will have the tools to work with to be able to manage our day to day operations, otherwise we will need to make some major operational changes.

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THE PATRIOT FLAG:

On December 1st, the Patriot Flag that is touring the country will make a stop in Barnegat. The flag will be stopping in all 50 states before finally being flown at ground zero in New York. The flag honors the fallen of 9/11 and the first responders, paramedics, police, firefighters, everyday volunteers that sacrificed that fateful day and our armed forces that continue to fight for our freedom. The event is being hosted and coordinated by our American Legion, Barnegat Fire Department and 9/11 EMT/survivor, Charlie Giles. Everyone is invited to join and watch the 30 x 58 foot flag being hoisted on Birdsall Street at 11 AM. A parade of emergency vehicles and the 18 wheel rolling memorial listing the names of the victims of 9/11 will commence from our public dock prior to the event.

RIBBON CUTTINGS AND GROUND BREAKINGS:

In the past two weeks, construction on two new buildings commenced in the Historic District of Barnegat, on Route 9. An all new Meyer's Liquor Store with two additional rental spaces is under way as is the new Green Thumb Day Care just across the street. Also, the walls are up on the new Advance Auto Parts store on West Bay Avenue next to the Lukoil gas station.

FOOD PANTRY:

The Barnegat Food Pantry received a donation of 20 cases of food this past week from Spiaggia e Luna and U.S. Foods. Jon and Stephanie Serpico, Spiaggia's owners, also donated pizza and sodas to all of the volunteers that helped with the Scout's food drive this past Saturday.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DONATIONS:

Tonight just after my report, the Barnegat Chamber of Commerce will be making their annual donations to our Fire Departments, First Aid Squad, our PBA and the Barnegat Food Pantry. The events sponsored throughout the year by the Chamber fund these donations and I am happy to report that this year's giving is larger then ever. I want to personally thank my wife and Chamber President, Ginny, and all of the Chamber members for all of their outstanding efforts and their continued support of our local organizations.

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FARMER’S MARKET:

The Thanksgiving Farmer’s Market by the Gazebo Park will be this Sunday, November 21st from 11 AM to 4 PM. Stop by to get your last minute fresh vegetables and fruit and more, as well as some holiday decorations.

BARNEGAT BENGALS:

Congratulations are in order to our varsity football team for winning their first playoff game. The Bengals beat Lower Cape May Regional 29-28 in the South Jersey Group II quarterfinals. Next it’s on to the semifinals on Friday against West Deptford. Great job by the players and coaches!

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township