

## **Committee Meeting – May 4, 2009 MAYOR’S REPORT**

### **CONGRESSMAN ADLER:**

**This past Saturday, both Deputy Mayor Cirulli and I, met with Congressman John Adler at the Barnegat Library for his “Congressman on Your Corner” meeting. About 30 residents from Barnegat and the surrounding communities presented questions to the Congressman on issues within the 3<sup>rd</sup> District and on the Federal level. The issues of most importance were health care and overspending by the Federal government. On a more local level were two issues. 1. The importance of dredging our channel that leads from the local marinas to our public dock. 2. The issue that I brought up of asking the Federal government to lease the Post Office parking lot to the Township for \$1 and add it to our inventory of municipal parking in the downtown area. The Congressman vowed to follow up on both concerns.**

### **2009 BUDGET:**

**Over the past couple of months, Committeewoman Ryan and Committeeman Lisella along with the administrator, met with the department heads to discuss their operations and related budget request. While I do not want to speak for them, I think it is safe to say that the results of those discussions was that the Township manages an efficient operation that responds to the needs of a growing community and that any cuts of significance would require a corresponding decrease in municipal services. Having said that, I want the residents of Barnegat to know that the Township continues to examine its operations and is constantly looking for ways to improve upon the delivery of services to the community.**

**Also, last week representatives from the Township and School Board meet to discuss various issues impacting the financial position of the community. Our strong and productive relationship with the school board will have a beneficial impact on the town as both governing bodies now have the ability sit down, talk and develop plans that represent the best interest of the Township. Additionally, the Township Administrator and Chief Financial Officer have been working very closely with the school's administration over the past couple of weeks finalizing certain financial and budgetary issues. With the completion of that work on the horizon, at this time, I would anticipate that the Township Administrator will make a presentation on the 2009 municipal budget on Monday May 18, 2009, with a budget introduction scheduled for June 1, 2009 and an adoption tentatively**

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scheduled for July 6, 2009. Between budget introduction and adoption, the Township will reach out to the various communities and civic organizations in order to present and answer questions on the budget.

The Township Committee charged the administrator with a simple task ... maintain municipal services with no tax increase. Based on his current aspirin consumption, which has decreased recently, I think that the administrator will have some good news to report at the next meeting, especially in light of these difficult economic times.

**TAX APPEALS:**

1 4 4 4 ... No that is not today’s PICK FOUR lottery number but the number of tax appeals filed in Barnegat this year. Almost 15% of the residents in Barnegat elected to file a tax appeal with the Ocean County Board of Taxation. While the exact impact of this large number of tax appeals is not known at this time, overall, it will not be good for Barnegat. As a result of the extraordinary large number of appeals, the Tax Assessor is exploring options that would fairly streamline the appeal process but yet protect the interest of the Township. However, regardless of how efficient the Township is at handling these appeals, the choke point will be the Ocean County Board of Taxation, which at this time is unable to manage over 11,000 tax appeals filed county wide. Over the next few weeks, the Tax Assessor will be coming forward with a plan of action that will address the manner in which these tax appeals will be addressed. Rest assured the tax appeals will be handled in a fair, timely and reasonable manner.

**COMMUNITY ISSUES:**

**MENK CRAWL SPACE REPAIRS** – This evening I have the agreement with Menk to start the renovations and repairs to the next 25 or so crawlspaces. This work should be completed on these homes in approximately 3 months. More inspections of additional crawlspaces will be forthcoming.

**MENK ATTIC REPAIRS** – The Township is close to finalizing an agreement with Menk to complete the balance of the repairs in the remaining 250 or so, Menk homes in the Mirage community. All of the work on these houses should be completed by the end of this year.

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**STERLING WOODS** – The bonding company for Kara Homes has finished the remaining site improvements which the Kara bankruptcy left incomplete. That project is now completed.

**HORIZONS** – Weather permitting, the bonding company will be completing the balance of the repairs to the detention basin and other minor area site improvements in this development. All work should be completed this month.

**PEBBLE BEACH DREDGING:**

On tonight’s agenda is a resolution to assist with the funding of the dredging of the Hudson Lagoon in Pebble Beach. This long overdue project is being done with the cooperation of both Barnegat and Ocean Townships and the Pebble Beach Homeowners Association at a much reduced cost to all of those involved. The completion of the dredging is scheduled for late June so as to be ready for the summer boating season.

**MEN’S SENIOR SOFTBALL:**

Last week I had the opportunity to throw out the first pitch at the season opener of the Men’s Softball League. Prior to doing that, an unfortunate incident occurred. One of the players, Mr. James Reilly, collapsed on the sideline of the field. Jim’s fellow players, and other participants, called 911 and immediately began CPR until help arrived from the police, EMS and Paramedics. Unfortunately, Jim passed away after being transported to Community Memorial Hospital. I must commend all of those people on their gallant efforts and basic skills that they utilized and gave Jim a little more time. My condolences go out to Jim’s family and friends and many thanks to the Mirage and Heritage Point Men’s Softball members for doing what they could in a very critical situation.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS:**

I would like to congratulate Bob Houser, Elaine Taylor and Raphael Adorno for their re-election to the Barnegat Township School Board. The Committee looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Board in the upcoming year. The goal of both the Committee and the School Board is to provide top quality education and municipal services to our residents and their children at a reasonable tax rate. We will continue to strive towards that goal through shared services and an open line of communication.

**Jeffrey M. Melchiondo, Mayor, Barnegat Township**