

Committee Meeting – July 19, 2010
MAYOR’S REPORT

BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

The Barnegat Township 2010 municipal budget is on tonight’s agenda for adoption. Adoption will be delayed until next meeting since the Township has budget amendments that must be considered. These amendments reduced the overall budget by \$400,000. I would again like to reinforce that this is a reasonable and responsible budget considering all of the negative factors we were faced with this past year. Maintaining the expected level of service to our residents does not come without costs and we were able to do this with a modest increase of 3.3 cents on the municipal tax rate. This years snow removal costs, pension payments, retirements and reduction in state aid amounted to one million dollars or over 3 cents on our tax rate alone. And please remember that we are operating with a reduction of over 10% in our workforce and are still under a hiring freeze while the town continues to grow. All of this on top of a record number of tax appeals during the past two (2) years.

ESTIMATED TAX BILLS:

By now, everyone has received their estimated tax bills and I would like to clear up some questions that I, the other Committee members, and our tax collection department have been receiving. First and foremost, do not multiply your estimated bill by four to determine you new taxes. In most cases, the first and second quarter tax payments will be more than the third and fourth quarters. And in some cases it will be the other way around, depending on if you had a property assessment adjustment or a successful tax appeal this year. If you multiply the new total tax rate of 1.759 times your assessed value, you will come up with your new annual tax amount within a few dollars. Once our budget is passed, the new tax bills will be mailed and will include your assessed value and total tax bill for the year.

SIDEWALK PROJECT:

Construction has begun on the nearly 2 miles of sidewalks being installed as part of the Safe Routes to Schools program. Our attorney and engineer are currently securing all of the required agreements with all of the residents in the areas where the Township needed easements for the sidewalks. With luck and good weather we fully expect to have all sidewalks and pathways completed for the upcoming school year.

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THE NEW CVS & SUPER WAWA:

The new CVS has announced a projected opening of Labor Day and the Super WaWa has announced their projected opening date of Oct. 22nd.

EXIT 67 UPDATE:

I hope that I can safely say that by the time that this Committee meets again in August, that the new full Parkway interchange and bridges will be finally open. This long drawn out project will soon be a welcomed thing of the past. I know it is customary to thank all of the parties involved with the construction, which we’ll do at the ribbon cutting, I think it’s more important to thank the Barnegat residents for their patience and understanding over the past two years. Once the barricades are lifted and the roads are opened, I think we will all agree that it was well worth the wait.

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