

## 4/22 Financial Advisory Committee

Present: Shute, Rich, Bergenfeld, Hamtil, Malek, Hoyer, Van Saase

Absent: none

Committeeman Masterson attended in place of Committeeman Fisher as Township Committee liaison  
Members of the Public- Sean Pfeiffer, Bruce Gage (arrived late, left early) and Joan Van der Veen  
(arrived late, left early), CFO Jane Luhrs (arrived late, left early)

1: Discussion of protocol for public participation.

Decision was made to invite public to introduce their ideas at the beginning of the meeting and allow  
additional  
public comment at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Pfeiffer declined to comment at the beginning.

2: March 17 meeting notes, review and revise.

No changes.

3: Township Budget breakdown.

Shute distributed 2 spreadsheets depicting the current draft budget for 2010, one showing revenue  
and  
tax rate calculation and the other appropriations. The committee spent some time discussing various  
line items and in the end the consensus was that the budget situation going forward was dire.

4: Use of Municipal Property

It was agreed that the best option discussed so far regarding use of the municipal property was a large  
solar array. Shute distributed preliminary design calculations for a 1 megawatt array. Also, distributed  
were copies of a recent news article on a large solar project going forward in Hamilton. Property tax  
revenue from that utility owned project is estimated to be \$40,000/year. The possibility of the site for a  
wind turbine farm was also discussed. Hoyer volunteered to pursue the solar array and Rich  
volunteered to do preliminary investigation into the wind farm.

5: Status of Police Study Group

Shute reported that there had been 1 meeting of the newly formed study group appointed by the  
Lambertville and West Amwell mayors. He will keep the committee apprised of progress. Shute  
brought up the possibility of setting up a Police Fund where residents could make tax deductible  
donations which would be used to support police operations. General consensus was that the idea  
was worth pursuing, and Shute will discuss with the CFO.

6: New Business

None

7: Open to the public

Pfeiffer expressed his concern regarding the idea of reducing the open space tax in order to partially  
offset the increase in the municipal tax rate. In response to questions he stated that the current  
balance in the Open Space trust account was over \$2 million, but that the funds were invested and  
generating income. He suggested renting out the municipal property for farming, but the committee  
agreed that was not a viable idea since there is plenty of rent free farmland available in the area. He  
suggested that the brush chipping process be stopped since the operation was "just burning up fuel".  
The committee agreed that there should be a more productive project for the road department to fill  
time available.

7: Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting is scheduled for May 26.

Submitted by Hal Shute, 4/25/2010