

## Finance Committee Meeting Notes, 6/10/10

Present: Bergenfeld, Hamtil, Hoyer, Malek, Rich, Shute  
Absent: Fisher, Van Saase  
Tom Molnar attended as Twp. Comm. representative

Review of 4/22 meeting notes: No change.

Police Department donation fund: Shute distributed list of “commonly approved Dedication By Rider Listing” from CFO Luhrs. List includes “Donations”. Shute to continue investigation.

7 year Township budget summary: Shute distributed 7 year history of Twp. Budget introduced including 2010 budget. Steadily declining surplus and rising appropriations and municipal tax rate were noted.

2010 Budget: Introduced budget available, public hearing set for June 23.

Municipal Operating Tax Index: Shute distributed partial list of NJ municipalities sorted by population density. West Amwell has 40<sup>th</sup> lowest density statewide, and is one of very few municipalities in its class with police force. South Harrison Twp in Gloucester County was identified as have very similar attributes, but with significantly lower municipal cost per capita. Shute to investigate.

Solar Array: Rich spoke to Sun Power, will confirm them for next meeting, date TBD. Hoyer spoke to 2 area power companies, who expressed minor interest in working directly with the township on a solar project. Hamtil brought up idea of forming an LLC for investors to capitalize project and qualify for tax credits unavailable to Open Space Tax: Question of possible reduction in OS tax under review. Possible alternative would be to move Calton OS purchase debt service from muni to OS budget.

Police Study Status: Shute reported 3 meetings held with Lambertville to date. Merger with Lambertville not beneficial based on current information.

Other: Group discussed commercial zone along Rt.31, and how it might be better utilized. Rich proposed a property by property analysis to determine whether zoning needs to be addressed there.

Next meeting: TBD, based on availability of Sun Power.

Submitted by Hal Shute 6/13/10