

**Minutes for the Joint Consolidation/ Shared Services Study Commission of  
Princeton Borough**

**and**

**Princeton Township**

**September 20, 2011 – 7:08 p.m.**

**Township Municipal Building – Committee Room, Princeton NJ**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m., with Ms. Phyllis Persicketti reading the Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting.

Notice of this meeting as required by sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of the written notice attached hereto,

On June 22, 2011, said notice was posted in the official bulletin board, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Town Topics filed with the Township Clerk and posted on the Princeton Borough and Princeton Township websites.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**ATTENDEES:**

***Commission Members Present*** – Anton Lahnston, (Chair), Valerie Haynes (Vice Chair), Mayor Chad Goerner, Mayor Mildred Trotman, Municipal Administrator Jim Pascale, Ryan Lilienthal, Alice Small, Bill Metro, Bernie Miller, M. Patrick Simon, David Goldfarb and DCA Representative Eugene McCarthy

***Absent:*** Carol Golden and Bob Bruschi

***Other Business:*** Chair Lahnston stated that Shabnam was no longer working for the Commission due to her accepting a teaching position in Newark. Chair Lahnston “thanked” Shabnam for all her hard work serving as the Commission Secretary and will send her a note stating such. Therefore, Phyllis Persicketti will be taking her place for a few months and go through until election time in November. At this time, Phyllis gave a brief introductory of her background to the Commission.

***Conference Call Attendee (allotment time: one (1) hour from commencement):*** Joseph Stefko (Center for Governmental Research-CGR)

### **3. REVIEW and APPROVAL MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2011 (INCLUDES FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT FROM AUGUST 4, 2011)**

Chair Lahnston had a question with respect to the comment made by Mr. Goldfarb relating to ELEC and did not know what the initials stood for, which was found in the minutes section entitled '*Public Comment*' section, last paragraph. Mr. Goldfarb replied that ELEC stands for Election Law Enforcement Commission. A motion was made to approve the August 17, 2011 minutes as read by Mayor Trotman and the motion was seconded by Mr. Simon. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public came forward to speak.

### **4. COMMISSION BUDGET UPDATE – ANTON LAHNSTON (CHAIR)**

. : As of the September 16, 2011, the total spent was \$84,958.14 and the total budget dollar amount is \$120,274.00. The budget will be watched. Mr. Goldfarb remarked that more costs were incurred than shown because CGR was paid on contingency. Chair Lahnston addressed this remark to Joe Stetko of CGR who replied that a few invoices are currently outstanding; but the billing amounts due to CGR are small dollar amounts. Administrator Pascale replied to look at the budget and make up for other line items by taking the money out of the contingency category which has a balance of \$3,234.

### **5. TRANSITION COSTS UPDATE – CHAD GOERNER (MAYOR)**

Mayor Goerner stated there was no update at this time.

### **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **a. Community Engagement Plans for October and November- Alice Small**

Mrs. Small indicated that there will be several meeting which are listed below and currently on the schedule:

- September 27<sup>th</sup> - School Board meeting;
- October 1, 2011- with Princeton Future;
- October 9, 2011 - Community Without Roles- located at the Senior Resource Center commencing at 4:00 p.m.;
- October 17, 2011 meeting with Revisit to Westminster Choir at 7:30 p.m.;
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – Princeton Resource Center commencing at 10:30 a.m.;
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – Rotary Meeting held at the Nassau Club starting at noon;
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Revisit to the Seminary at 7:30 p.m.

Chair Lahnston commented that the Revisits to the Seminary and Westminster were meetings which they both agreed to in the beginning.

Mrs. Small continued with the scheduled meeting dates listed below:

- September 29<sup>th</sup> – Princeton Gathering
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – xxxxx at 7:30 p.m.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – Princeton Gathering at 7:00 p.m.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Riverside Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The above meetings referenced are currently on the schedule. The Commission welcomes any other meetings, should they emerge. Mrs. Small responded that there are a few other meetings in the making and should be scheduled.

Mr. Lilienthal and Mr. Miller are scheduled to conduct an interview on September 21, 2011 at 10:30. a.m.

At this time, Joseph Stefko requested the details on the October 4<sup>th</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup> meetings. Carol had given him a number of additional Community Outreach meetings to reflect on. However, he not receive the September 29<sup>th</sup> nor the October 1<sup>st</sup> Rotary materials. Mss. Small replied that she will send Mr. Stefko the details he requested.

**b. Request for Participation by the Commission Members – Alice Small**

Mrs. Small said that she would like to encourage every Commission member to join them at any and all meetings. Some of the meetings will have a large attendance. The Riverside Meeting has two members attending (Chair Lahnston and Mrs. Small) and would like more Commission members attending because they expect a huge crowd turnout. Each individual has their own perspective as to what the Commission has been doing. If people are in the neighborhoods where the meetings take place it would be helpful if they would attend those meetings.

**c. Review of Standard Presentation Prepared for the Commission – Chair Anton Lahnston**

Chair Lahnston sent the Commission members the Standard Presentation that they plan to use for the master or the meeting with Princeton xxxxx. He is open to input. If the Commission has any questions, present them now.

With respect to Community Engagement, there are a number of requests to produce a *Spanish* version of the Summary Document. There was a previous discussion. Ryan is investigating this request. How does the Commission feel about honoring the Spanish version request of the Summary Document which is a total of 15 pages? The dissemination of the document could be put on the website. A discussion took place with the Commission members regarding this subject matter. The cost of translation is being looked at currently. It would have to be completed by October 26, 2011. LALDEF charges \$50 per hour for translation fees. Chair Lahnston estimates the cost

for the entire translation and printing fees to be between \$900 and \$1,000. Postage has not been addressed.

Mr. Goldfarb feels that there is not a huge Spanish population in the given area. He would like to see other government documents which need translating before the Summary Report. Mr. Goldfarb also feels that most of the registered voters understand the English language and they are dealing with a limited population. Mayor Trotman is hesitant, but does not want to exclude anyone; but the number is so small and feels it does not warrant the cost. A suggestion was made to find someone who would do it or even get a college student to translate the document. Mrs. Small said that the 1 ¼ page Summary could be translated only. Mr. Goldfarb feels that is reasonable. The 1 ¼ pages includes all the recommendations made by the Commission, per Mrs. Small. A motion was made by Mr. Goldfarb to translate the Summary Page which consists of 1 ¼ pages and the dollar amount is not to exceed \$300 and will be presented in PDF format. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lilienthal. All Commission members were in favor. Motion carried.

**7. COMMISSION PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT MEETINGS OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE and BOROUGH COUNCIL on SEPTEMBER 27 (in the Borough) and OCTOBER 26 (in the Township)**

Mayor Trotman stated that the Borough meeting is scheduled on September 27, 2011 and will commence at 7:00 p.m. and will be an open session meeting. Depending on the number of individuals in attendance, the comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any questions posed by the elected officials will be heard first and the public will speak thereafter. The Commission will be available to answer any and all questions posed to them by either the elected officials or the public. The September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> meetings will differ in location and they are both open public meetings. The meetings are also open to the residents. There will be a condensed version of the presentation to consist of three to four slides.

Mr. Simon said there is a need to correct the misrepresentations about the facts which the public is misconstruing. The facts need to be presented. Mayor Goerner replied that there were clear statements which were not factual, which becomes a problem. Introductory statement needs to be made, per Mayor Goerner. Chair Lahnston stated that the questions posed would be answered by different members of the Commission. The elected officials need to know what the facts are based upon. There are a lot of wrong assertions which need to be presented. Once this is achieved, the correct information needs to be provided.

Mr. Goldfarb is working with the group that is opposing consolidation. The people feel strongly about this issue and even if were convinced that the facts are based correctly; they would feel the same way. They are trying to convince their neighbors of their positions based upon lies, per Mayor Goerner. Mayor Trotman responded that she feels it is very important that the facts should be given, where possible, and incorporated in the answer given because the record needs to be set straight. People can vote the way they choose; but the key element is to give the facts and then base their decision upon the facts

presented. Mayor Trotman attended a meeting and wrong statements were presented and she will forward the list of wrong statements to the Commission. Chair Lahnston said that everyone should give the misstatements heard and send them by Friday and he would also like for a volunteer to work with him on this matter to ensure it is completed by Tuesday. Mr. Goldfarb indicted that a lot of the misinformation relates to financial information and the Commission can refer to the report to set the record straight. Mr. Miller differed with Mr. Goldfarb in that allegations were recently made and had nothing to do with financial information. Chair Lahnston stated he the needs the information from the Commission members by Thursday, September 22, 2011 and needs a volunteer. All Commission members were in agreement.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public came forward at this time.

## **9. FINALIZE ACCOUNTABILITIES, PLANS and PRESENTATIONS FOR MEETING ON OCTOBER 1, 2011 WITH PRINCETON FUTURE, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS and PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Everyone has assigned to prepare a 15-20 minute Power Point presentation (done on an overhead).

Mr. Metro inquired as to the police slides, how much talk will reflect upon shared services? Chair Lahnston feels that this issue should be presented. Mr. Lilienthal stated that is going a step too far in that this is an alternative and not a second option. What was stated previously is that: should Consolidation not be approved; alternatively, the Commission recommends consolidation of the police department and the governing bodies should investigate into this matter. The Commission concluded that: based upon the information before them, the Commission recommended Consolidation and did not conclude that the having the police as a shared service will be second best, per Mayor Goerner.

Joe Stefko stated that he wants reassurance that the Commission still wants him to participate in the Joint Meeting on October 26, 2011. Chair Lahnston will call him after the meeting on September 27, 2011 and a decision will be made at that time if his participation will be required on October 26, 2011. Chair Lahnston would still like to have CGR turn any documents which may be sent to them around in a reasonable and fashionable time frame. Mr. Stefko responded in the affirmative.

At this time, the conference call was terminated between Mr. Stefko of CGR and the Commission members.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commission will not meet prior to the election. There is only meeting scheduled which will be held on October 26, 2011 which will be the Joint Meeting between the Township and Borough, per Chair Lahnston.

The Commission can meet after the election to share what they have learned from the experience. The Commission's knowledge needs to be shared regardless of the outcome. They should not just go away after the election. Chair Lahnston asked the Commission members to send him a few dates and he will get back to them.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

No other business came before the Committee; therefore, Mayor Goerner made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mayor Trotman at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Persicketti