

Joint Consolidation/ Shared Services Study Commission of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township

June 8, 2011

Joint Consolidation/ Shared Services Study Commission of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 5 pm

Council Chambers, Borough Hall, Princeton, NJ

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm, with Ms. Shabnam Salih 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 November 29, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., 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

Present: Golden, Haynes, Metro, Miller, Goerner, Lilienthal, Lahnston, Simon, Small, Goldfarb, Trotman, McCarthy

Absent: None

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Also Present: John Fry, Jim Pascale and Bob Bruschi

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 17, 2011

Delete paragraph 3 on page 9.

Motion made to approve the minutes.

Vote all in favor.

Motion approved.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2011

Send revisions to Salih by close of business Friday.

Chairperson Lahnston thanks the writer of the editorial in the Princeton Packet on the Commission's work.

5. CONFIRM THAT DISPATCH IS INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICE CONSOLIDATION – BILL METRO

Metro clarifies that there would be a consolidated dispatch center. It was noted by Lilienthal that the recommendation was approved in a previous meeting.

6. REVIEW OF DRAFT OF RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR TRANSITION COSTS

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Chairperson Lahnston explains that changes to the report of official recommendations should be sent to the appropriate author by Friday.

Mayor Goerner asks when the joint meeting for the resolution will be held. He also explains that the Commission needs a clarification of the statute.

Lahnston suggests putting a placeholder on July 20th and August 17th as additional Commission meeting dates.

He also explains that the final submission to the Borough Council and the Township Committee will include the following: the options report, the recommendations and rationale, appendices and the tax impact document, other appendices and the DCA report.

Goldfarb asks if the transitional team will be people only from Princeton or others also.

Mayor Goerner responds that there will be citizen representatives along with governing body representatives.

Goldfarb suggests a manager for the transition.

Lahnston explains that he talked to Stefko who advised that it was not necessary. Township Administrator Pascale agrees that the two municipalities have sufficient administrative staff to manage the transition. Pascale suggests the two administrators be on the transitional team.

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Mayor Goerner states that there needs to be an additional meeting of the finance subcommittee along with the municipal consolidation subcommittee to discuss sewer fees, other financial topics and the structure of the transitional team.

a. IDENTIFY THE AREAS WHERE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE (S) NEED WORK ALONG WITH ACCOUNTABLE PERSON (S)/SUBCOMMITTEES

Lahnston states that the comments in the administrator section should be revisited at the time of consolidation.

Lahnston asks Metro to include the police model in the appendix. He asks Haynes to do so as well for the public works model.

Commission members go through draft report and suggest minor revisions at this time and will email additional revisions to the prospective authors of the section.

There is discussion on the strength of the appendix on non-financial considerations of consolidation.

Goldfarb argues that the appendix is not as useful as it is intended to be because it does not sufficiently address the disadvantages of consolidation, which in his belief will weaken the argument for consolidation.

Lahnston disagrees and explains that the argument for consolidation is explained in an excellent manner.

Mayor Trotman states that the Commission should be able to present a balanced argument to the public.

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Mayor Goerner explains that the Commission must defend their recommendation for consolidation considering it was a vote of 9-1.

Goldfarb reiterates the problems of not identifying the disadvantages of consolidation and adds that opponents will add the disadvantages and it will make the argument for consolidation look weak. He explains that it will make for a stronger report to include the disadvantages.

Mayor Trotman explains that there should be recognition of the disadvantages.

Lilienthal suggests that Goldfarb help edit this appendix.

Mayor Goerner does not support having a weakened document and a weakened case for consolidation.

Simon adds that he does not support validating misconceptions on consolidation.

It was agreed that the document would be reviewed at the Finance and Municipal Consolidation joint Subcommittee meeting next week.

7. REVIEW DCA REPORT AND PROVIDE COMMENTS

It is explained that the DCA Report gives a look at the tax implications.

McCarthy explains that the document has been approved by his Commissioner and made public.

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Lahnston states that the next steps for the document are for everyone to take a close look at it and whether the Commission can accept this document.

Simon asks whether the Commission needs to accept it.

Lahnston responds that since it will go in the Commission's final report they should accept it and endorse it.

Simon explains he is not comfortable endorsing the document.

Mayor Goerner agrees.

Lilienthal adds that making the document the Commission's document makes it seem less objective.

McCarthy thanks everyone's comments on the report.

Lahnston suggests revisiting accepting and/or endorsing the DCA Report at the meeting on June 22nd.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE – NEXT STEPS

Golden states that a meeting was held the previous night with members of the public and the members of the subcommittee highlighted the recommendations, and explained how they see consolidation affecting the people of the communities. There were also good questions raised.

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The subcommittee's neighborhood gatherings are on hold for a while. Golden explains that she sees the role of the whole Commission as to help with Committee and the Council as they move forward with the final report.

Golden suggests developing a messaging plan for the future.

Mayor Goerner explains the he will be lining up meetings.

Golden adds that the Commission must look into how to market the recommendations to the public. She further explains that during the summer the Committee will not be holding many neighborhood gatherings and that they will be gearing up for meetings in the fall.

She suggests letters to the editor for different local newspapers and she would like to be kept informed and monitor the flow of letters so there is not redundancy.

Mayor Goerner has a map of the two communities and explains the area's data population demographics. He explains how to connect neighborhoods currently in the Township that are adjacent to the Borough and as densely populated as the Borough and as close to the downtown as many of the Borough neighborhoods. He explains that approximately 60% of the Township population live in these densely developed areas that are just like the Borough. His figures do not include the student population.

9. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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Carla Reddie from Princeton Borough asks why the issue of consolidation is not a settled issue since it has been voted on in the past. She also expresses concerns about what may be lost in the case of consolidation.

10. COMMISSION PREPARATION OF FINAL REPORT:

a. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CGR AND THE SUBCOMMITTEES

Send revisions to appropriate author.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Send agenda items to Lahnston for the June 22nd meeting by June 17.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion is made to adjourn by Golden.

Motion is seconded by Trotman.

All vote in favor.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shabnam Salih, Study Commission Secretary

*Joint Consolidation/ Shared Services Study Commission of Princeton Borough and
Princeton Township*

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Approved: July 20 2011