

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK HELD MARCH 11, 2014**

A Special Budget Meeting of the Lower Alloways Creek Township Committee was held on March 11, 2014 with Mayor Timothy W. Bradway calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE GIVEN

The Township Clerk read the following statement.

This is a Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. To insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting them is discussed or acted upon. Advance written notice of this meeting was given by way of an Annual Notice, which was filed with the Lower Alloways Creek Township Clerk, forwarded to the South Jersey Times and the Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Lower Alloways Creek Township Municipal Building in compliance with said Act.

FLAG SALUTE Mayor Bradway led in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE

Present: Mr. Breslin, Mrs. Pompper, Mr. Venable, and Mayor Bradway

Absent: Mr. Palombo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Also in attendance were Don Hinchman Fire Chief, Kevin Clour; Chief Finance Officer and the Township Clerk Ronald L Campbell Sr.

Mr. Palombo entered the meeting at 6:07

Motion (Pompper, Venable) for Resolution 2014-55, A Resolution calling on the Legislature to make permanent the 2% Cap on Interest Arbitration Awards.

Resolution 2014- 55

**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE PERMANENT THE 2%
CAP ON INTEREST ARBITRATION AWARDS**

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2010, Governor Christie signed into law reforms to the Arbitration process that took effect January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the reforms capped arbitration awards on economic factors to no more than 2%, provided for random selection of arbitrators, expedited the determination of awards, required the arbitrator to provide a written report detailing the weight accorded to each of the required considerations and expedited the appeal process; and

WHEREAS, these reforms marked a dramatic change to the arbitration process and have helped municipalities to control the never-ending rise in public safety personnel costs; and

WHEREAS, a key element of the reforms, capping arbitration awards on economic factors to no more than 2% of the property tax levy will expire on April 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, while municipalities are statutorily limited to raise their property tax levy by no more than 2%, with very limited exceptions, failure to extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards will force municipalities throughout the State to further reduce or even

eliminate crucial services, personnel, and long-overdue infrastructure improvement projects in order to fund an arbitration award; and

WHEREAS, the 2% Interest Arbitration cap has controlled one of the largest municipal expense, public safety salaries, not only through arbitration awards but through contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS, absent further action by the Legislature, any contract that expires on or after April 1, 2014, will be subject to all new procedures and requirements, EXCEPT the 2% awards cap; and

WHEREAS, without those limits, arbitrators will be able to impose awards that do not account for the 2% limit on the property tax levy, which would immediately threaten funding for all other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, without the 2% cap on Interest Arbitration Awards but with the 2% cap on property tax levy local budget makers could be forced to reduce other essential municipal services to fund an arbitration award;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek strongly urges the Legislature to permanently extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards prior to the April 1, 2014 sunset; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a that a copy of this duly adopted resolution be forwarded to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, the legislators of the third district State Legislative representatives, Celeste M. Riley and John J. Burzichelli, Governor Chris Christie, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

The motion for Resolution 2014-55 passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 4-0

Ayes: Pompper, Venable, Breslin, Palombo and Bradway,

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion (Pompper, Venable) to convene into a Closed Session of Business 6:05 pm

RESOLUTION 2014- 56 A RESOLUTION FOR A CLOSED SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek that a portion of the meeting of the Township Committee be closed to the public to enable the Township Committee to discuss, and where appropriate, take action concerning the following matter(s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

____ 7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in (4) above in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.

More specifically, the matter to be discussed involves the following:

- A. Contracts – Health Insurance

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the matters discussed will be available for public inspection

A. At such time the matter is concluded

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Closed Session is expected to continue for 30 (thirty) Minutes and that further business by the Committee will take place at its conclusion.

The motion for the Closed Session of Business passed a vote of the Committee as follows: 4-0

Ayes: Pompper, Venable, Breslin, Palombo and Bradway,

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: None

Health Insurance issues / coverages were discussed with Jason Demarco the Township's Insurance Broker.

Motion (Venable, Breslin) to come out of the Closed Session of business. 6:45 pm

The motion to come out of the Closed Session of Business passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Pompper, Bradway, Breslin, Palombo and Venable

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

2014 Budget

The Township Committee was satisfied with the final Budget numbers provided by the Chief Finance Officer and will introduce the 2014 Budget on March 18.

Capital Items

The Committee discussed the Capital items brought to the last Budget Meeting and decided to pursue funding the following;

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| PW Equipment | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Improvements to Buildings and Grounds | \$ 75,000.00 |
| Trash Truck | \$280,000.00 |
| Public Safety equipment | \$ 10,000.00 |

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Breslin, Palombo) to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Minutes of the March 11, 2014 Meeting were approved at a meeting held March 18, 2014

ATTEST:

LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK TOWNSHIP

Ronald L Campbell Sr. Clerk

By: _____
Mayor, Timothy W. Bradway