

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
WYCKOFF MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007 – 8:00 A.M.**

Mayor David N. Connolly called the Friday, May 18, 2007 Special Public Meeting of the Wyckoff Township Committee to order.

Township Committeeman Harold Galenkamp gave the Invocation.

Township Clerk Joyce Santimauro, read the following "Special Open Public Meetings Act" statement:

"This Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff is now in session. In accordance with Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to advise that notice of this meeting has been posted in the lower level of Memorial Town Hall since May 14, 2007. A copy of the Notice has been filed with the Township Clerk and copies were sent to the Ridgewood News, The Record and the North Jersey Herald and News on May 14, 2007 - all papers with general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff."

The Wyckoff Township Committee voted unanimously to open the meeting for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Wyckoff Township Committee voted unanimously to close the meeting for public comment.

Clerk Santimauro read the following Consent Agenda into the record: "All matters listed below are considered by the Township Committee to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Township Committee, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately":

Resolutions (Adoption of the following):

#07-134 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, the two Committeemen acting as the Finance Committee have approved and signed vouchers, also recommending payment; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Treasurer has certified that sufficient funds are available for payment of said vouchers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff that the action of the said Finance Committee be approved; and, that the proper officers of the Township be, and they are hereby authorized and directed to draw checks against the funds of the Township of Wyckoff in payment of such vouchers covered by checks no. 2021 – 2023 Accutrack A/C and checks no. 048840 - 048968 Claims A/C.

Listing of said checks is attached to the official minutes.

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#07-135 Determination of Wyckoff K-8 School District Levy

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2007 at the 2007-2008 annual school election the voters of the Township of Wyckoff rejected the \$30,292,036.00 Current General Fund Appropriations school budget supported by a local tax levy of \$27,771,214.00 proposed by the Wyckoff Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 as amended the Township Committee is required to consult with the Board of Education on or before May 21, 2007 to determine the amount which, in the judgment of said Township Committee, is necessary to be appropriated by the Board of Education in order that the Board of Education might provide a thorough and efficient education system of schools in the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee conferred with the Board of Education through sub-committee discussions and on May 15, 2007 during a public meeting at the Eisenhower Middle School Cafetorium and public comments and questions were solicited from the citizens of the Township of Wyckoff; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee recognizes that the Board of Education worked diligently and in good faith to present a fiscally responsible budget to the residents of Wyckoff, but that notwithstanding those efforts, there are modifications to the budget which are appropriate to be made which will not affect the thorough and efficient education of our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, having given consideration to the comments of the public and after consultation with the Board of Education, the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff do hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the Township Committee is of the opinion and exercise their judgment pursuant to statute to reduce the tax levy of the 2007-2008 school budget by \$267,260.
2. The rationale for changes to the current expense and revenue portions of the 2007-2008 school budget are provided in Attachment A.
3. The amount certified by the Township Committee to be raised by local taxation for the current expenses of the school budget is \$27,503,954.
4. The Township Committee certifies that the proposed school budget as reduced by this Resolution represents the amount necessary to be appropriated in order to provide a thorough and efficient education system for the Township of Wyckoff.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff that the Municipal Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized to send one certified copy of this Resolution to the Administrator-Secretary of the of the Wyckoff Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools of the County of Bergen and to the Bergen County Board of Taxation.

CERTIFICATION

I, JOYCE C. SANTIMAURO, MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF, CERTIFY THE ABOVE TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

JOYCE C. SANTIMAURO
MUNICIPAL CLERK

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**Attachment A
Page 1**

**2007-2008 SCHOOL BUDGET DEFEAT
TAX LEVY REDUCTIONS**

APPROPRIATIONS – REDUCTIONS

10-303: BUDGETED FUND BALANCE \$75,000

This line item relating to Budgeted Fund Balance is increased from the proposed budget for 2007-2008 of \$888,703 to \$963,703 for an increase in budgeted revenue of \$75,000. This increase in revenue is made based upon discussions with the Board of Education which has acknowledged that it can reasonably anticipate additional Fund Balance in this year's budget. This amount represents additional Fund Balance anticipated to be received in the fiscal year 2006-2007. Since this change has no impact upon expenditures, but rather only increases revenue, it can be made without affecting in any way the education of our children. In addition, the effect of increasing revenue due to a larger Budgeted Fund Balance is to reduce the amount needed to be funded by taxpayers in taxes through this year's tax levy by the amount of this increase.

10-1XXX: UNRESTRICTED MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES. \$60,000

This line item relating to Miscellaneous Revenues is increased from the proposed budget for 2007-2008 of \$140,000 to \$200,000, for an increase in budgeted revenue of \$60,000. This account primarily relates to interest revenue received on various bank accounts of the District. Based upon the report of the Secretary to the Board dated 3/31/07 although \$40,300 was budgeted for the fiscal year 2006-2007, actual revenue received to the date of that report was \$244,578 representing excess revenue received over the budgeted amount for nine months of \$204,278. It is not anticipated that there would be any wide fluctuations in this revenue stream, since the District account balances do not fluctuate widely. Given these facts, it is reasonable to anticipate miscellaneous revenue to be substantially in excess of the \$140,000 budgeted. Accordingly, budgeted Miscellaneous Revenue has been increased by \$60,000 which still represents a conservative amount given the that the projected revenue through the end of fiscal year 2007 would be approximately \$300,000. Since this change has no impact upon expenditures, but rather only increases revenue it could be made without affecting in any way the education of our children. In addition, this increase in revenue would have the effect of reducing the amount needed to be funded by taxpayers through this year's Tax Levy, by the amount of this increase.

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**Attachment A
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**11-230-100-101, 11-000-221-102, 11-000-230-100 and \$62,235
11-000-218-104: DIFFERENTIAL IN TEACHERS' SALARIES
FOR NEW HIRES**

These line items are collectively reduced by the sum of \$62,235 over the proposed budget for 2007-2008. These reductions represent expenses which will be saved as a result of the difference between salaries for teachers who have left the district compared to the salaries of those teachers hired to replace them. In deliberations with the Board of Education they have acknowledged that this difference, sometimes known as "breakage", will be achieved this year and have agreed that these amounts can be cut without in any way impacting education to our children. These reductions in the aforementioned salary accounts are in the amount of \$4,431, \$11,816, \$13,293 and \$32,695 respectively.

**000-261-100: UNDISTRIBUTED EXPENDITURES –\$61,176
REQUIRED MAINTENANCE FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES, OTHER SALARIES:**

This line item relating to Other Salaries for maintenance of school facilities contained a proposed budgeted amount for 2007-2008 in the amount of \$366,349. This amount represents a 38.05% increase over the 2006-2007 budget amount of \$265,368. It also represents an increase of 49.85% over the four-year average. This line item is reduced by the sum of \$61,176 to the amount of \$305,073. This reduction can be implemented without affecting the thorough and efficient education of our children. The revised budgeted amount represents a 15% increase above last year's budget, taking into consideration that a portion of the new school construction may be completed for a portion of the next fiscal year. Viewed against the historical budgeted amounts, a reduction in this line item by \$61,176 should provide more than adequate funds for these expenditures if properly managed.

**000-251-890: UNDISTRIBUTED EXPENDITURES – \$5,580
CENTRAL SERVICES, MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES:**

This line item relating to miscellaneous expenditures, central services, is reduced from the proposed budget for 2007-2008 of \$33,345 to \$27,765. This sum represents a 3% increase over last year's approved budget amount of \$26,985. This reduction can be implemented without affecting in any way the educational quality of our children. The proposed budget amount represents a 23.57% increase over last year and a 53.52% increase over the average budgeted amount for the last four years. Viewed against these historical expenditures, the proposed reduction of \$5,580 is reasonable and should provide more than adequate funds for Miscellaneous expenditures if properly managed.

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**11-000-240-800: UNDISTRIBUTED EXPENDITURES, \$3,269
SUPPORT SERVICES – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION –
OTHER OBJECTS.**

The line item relating to Other Objects is reduced from the proposed budget for 2007-2008 of \$18,575 to \$15,306, for a reduction of \$3,269. This reduction can be implemented without affecting the thorough and efficient education of our children. The proposed expenditure represents a 21.36% increase over last year's budgeted amount. A review of the report of the Secretary to the Board of Education, dated 3/31/07, reflects that only \$9,507.07 had been either spent or encumbered on this account. Viewed against historical expenditures a reduction of \$3,269 in this line item should provide more than adequate funds for Other Objects if properly managed. It also should be noted that this account underwent a virtually identical analysis, with the same conclusions, during the 2006-2007 school budget review.

Total changes to 2007-2008 Board of Education budget results in a reduction in the tax levy of: \$267,260

These comments were made by the Township Committee prior to their voting on the Consent Agenda.

Committeeman Fiorenzo: "I would like to comment on Resolution #07-135. That's the resolution relating to the determination of the Wyckoff K-8 school district levy. On April 17, 2007 the voters of Wyckoff defeated the 2007-2008 proposed K-8 school budget. That triggered an obligation statutorily on behalf of the Township Committee to undertake a review of the K-8 School Budget in accordance with NJSA 18A:22-37. That obligation required us to review the budget in detail and to determine if any cuts, modifications or changes to the budget could be made without impacting the thorough and efficient education of our children. The Township Committee appointed a subcommittee consisting of Township Committeeman Richard Alnor and myself, who principally undertook the review, with consultations with the Township Committee and we engaged in the required consultation with the Board of Education, which included a subcommittee meeting and a public meeting.

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I want to thank our staff, Dianne McLeod, the Chief Financial Officer and Bob Shannon, the Township Administrator, for the Herculean effort they have undertaken in the past 30 days, obtaining information, helping us digest information and analyzing the budget. We did this task without hiring outside consultants, which many communities do, we were able to do this because we have a capable staff with people committed to putting in extra time to help us perform this task. I want to thank them for those efforts.

Also, I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the Wyckoff Board of Education and its' staff. They have been throughout this process professional, they have been responsive, they provided us with all the information we asked for. Having gone through this process on two prior occasions, and having been on the committee to review the budget I can say it appeared to me that it was indeed a very diligent and good faith effort made by the Wyckoff Board of Education to present a fiscally responsible budget to the residents of Wyckoff. We noted that in a number of areas that the Board undertook an effort to address concerns that had been raised in the past, and we appreciate that. We want to publicly acknowledge that.

None the less, we were required to undertake our statutory review, which we did. That review has resulted in the Township Committee, in the resolution that we are about to vote on, to propose a reduction in the tax levy of \$267,260. Let me explain how we arrived at that. Through our discussions with the Board there was provided to us two areas where it was acknowledged there could be some adjustments made to the budget. That consisted of basically two things: an adjustment to the fund balance, budgeted fund balance in the amount of \$75,000 that was an acknowledgement by the Board that there was additional revenue anticipated to be received in 2006-2007 that was not previously anticipated, and as a result of that the Board acknowledged that there could be an appropriate adjustment made and additional revenue realized. The second area involved has been described as breakage, the budget included salary information for a number of teachers who have since left the district, and have been replaced at lower salaries, those savings in teacher differential in salaries totals \$62, 235. So, once again through a collaborative effort the Board agreed that those adjustments could appropriately be made to the budget, as a budget cut, since those expenses would not be incurred. In addition to that, we have made several other modifications which I will generally describe, but which will be detailed in a resolution that we will provide to the public shortly after the conclusion of this meeting. Those additional areas basically consisted of two distinct categories. First, we have determined based upon review of the budget, that there is an additional amount of approximately \$60,000 in revenue that can be reasonably anticipated into the category of unrestricted miscellaneous revenue. We detailed the reasons for this in our resolution, but generally speaking it appears for the tax year, the calendar year 2006-2007 through today, there's approximately \$ 240,000 in miscellaneous revenue that has been realized and it's projected that that number likely will be \$300,000 by the end of the year. It was a budgeted amount in

this year's budget of \$140,000 and it's the conclusion of the Township Committee through this resolution that there can be an appropriate upward adjustment of that revenue to be realized, since it likely will be, and we have adjusted that up to \$200,000 and we believe this to be a conservative number. Additionally, the only other areas which count as a portion of

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this tax levy reduction of approximately \$70,000 in cuts are detailed in the resolution we will adopt today and will be available for public review. None of the cuts, none what so ever, will in any way impact upon the education of our children. As the resolution details, the cuts generally involve areas of school administration, areas of central services, school maintenance and based upon the historical operations and historical review of expenditures, and budgeted amounts it appears that the increases sought in the proposed budget are in excess of what would reasonably be required to fund those categories. Those total approximately \$70,000.

We believe that what we have done is we have struck the appropriate balance by addressing the need legally to review this budget in making the recommended changes we deemed appropriate, and we did so in a way recognizing that Wyckoff as a district does not have thorough and efficient education, it has excellent education. Nothing we have done here today will in any way alter that. That has been the guiding principle while we reviewed this budget. With that said I would like to invite comments.”

Committeeman Alnor: “I would also like to address the resolution. As some of you may know, this is my second year reviewing the Wyckoff School Budget. When the school budget was defeated this year, I was very vocal on why I thought the school budget was defeated. I can tell you that after the review we have gone through in the past 30 days (give or take a few), I echo Joe’s comments from the standpoint that this year the Board of Education has not only made an effort, but has succeeded in proposing a budget that is very evident that a lot of time, effort, thought and energy has gone into it. We thank you for that. From a support standpoint, I support the budget that was put forward, the cuts that we made were the reduction of basically \$70,000 on a \$30,000,000 budget, which is a very small reduction and we worked hard to get to that point; just as the Board has worked hard to develop this budget. We thank you for that.

At the meeting the other night there were some questions about the support of the Township Committee in reference to the School Board. I would in no way, shape or form like to see that commitment questioned. Our commitment is to the Township as a whole, we had some comments the other night about how Wyckoff has become a fractured community. Those type of comments really bother me as a life-long resident of Wyckoff. I will tell you that Joe and I and the rest of the Township Committee and the staff here at Town Hall worked diligently on this, we do not take this effort lightly. All of us have to be at work this morning, just like you do. We take the time, we take the effort, we looked at every single line the same way we look at our municipal budget, right down to every single dollar. I commend the Board and Dr. Razze for what they have done this year, I understand she can’t be here, please pass along my comments to her, because they are heart felt. I would also like to thank Joe Fiorenzo for his time and effort, we’ve been working diligently on this. I’m proud of where we are and I’m proud of where the Township Committee took it this year as well. Thank you.”

Township Administrator Shannon: “I have a comment on the resolution, on page one (1), item one (1) after NOW, THEREFORE, it reflects a cut and, since the use of more surplus and reduction of expenses is more accurate, the words “expense portion” should say “tax levy”.

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Committeeman Fiorenzo: “True, this is not a cut of \$267,000 at all, in fact that number comprises revenue enhancements recognizing revenue that should be received along with some reductions or cuts, but it is not \$267,000. The cuts over and above those we agreed to are approximately \$70,000. I think you are quite correct, Mr. Shannon, that should be noted accordingly and amended.”

Committeeman Alnor: “Bob, we’ll adjust that on all the copies.”

Township Administrator Shannon: “It’s adjusted on the record, so it’s very clear what action the governing body is taking, and I will adjust the copies as you requested”

Committeeman McNamara: “I would like to extend my appreciation to Rick and Joe as well, knowing the effort that’s required in doing this review in a very short period of time. It is a great deal of effort and work. It should be recognized by the public, I wasn’t able to attend the meeting Tuesday night, due to business reasons. I hope that the public looks at the minimal cut of \$70,000 in this budget as an endorsement of, and in recognition of the work and effort by the Wyckoff School Board in reviewing their budget. When you look at \$70,000 over a \$30,000,000 budget, it’s really minimal. I thank Joe and Rick for the effort required to look through the whole budget, this is an obligation that the Township Committee has when the public does vote down the budget. It has been said before, we don’t ask to do take on this role, we don’t ask to do the job, but when we are asked to do it we take it seriously. It’s important to recognize the effort on the part of the Wyckoff Board of Education in preparing such a well managed budget.”

Committeeman Harold Galenkamp: “I would like to echo my colleague’s remarks. Everyone involved did a terrific job. We appreciate everyone’s efforts. Thank you.”

Following is the vote on the Consent Agenda:

MOTION : FIORENZO SECOND: ALNOR
GALENKAMP YES ALNOR YES MC NAMARA YES
FIORENZO YES CONNOLLY YES