

**Special Meeting  
Lawrence Township Council  
Lawrence Township Municipal Building  
Lower Level Conference Room**

**April 30, 2012  
6:30 pm**

The following are the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council held on Monday, April 30, 2012.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki read the following statement of proper notice:

"Adequate notice of this special meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Monday, April 30, 2012, was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Lawrence Ledger on April 26, 2012 by the Municipal Clerk.

Roll Call was then called as follows:

**Present:** Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Powers, Puliti and Mayor Kownacki.  
**Absent:** None.

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, David M. Roskos, Municipal Attorney, Dr. Crystal Lovell, Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Eldridge, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary and members of the Board of Education - Deborah Cherry, Jo Ann Groeger, Michael Horan, Leon Kaplan, William Michaelson, Thomas Patrick, Kevin Van Hise and Laura Waters.

An at length discussion, question and answer period took place between the Township Council, Richard Krawczun, Municipal Manager, Thomas Eldridge, Business Administrator, and representatives of the Lawrence Township Board of Education regarding the General Fund Tax Levy budget for school year 2012-2013 that was voted down at the School Board Election held on April 17, and where there may be opportunities to amend and reduce the budget without negatively impacting the education of the students.

**Public Participation**

The following individuals voiced their concerns, support and/or non- support of cuts to the School Board budget that was voted down at the election held on April 17, and the importance of good schools, good education and balanced school budget. A public thank you was also extended to Mr. Eldridge and Dr. Lovell for their consistent financial management of the schools budget and making Lawrence Township schools one of the best schools in the district to attend. Afterwards, an at length discussion followed regarding specific line items of reductions in the budget, the amount of reduction to the tax levy for the base budget of \$500,000 and the legalities with respect to procedures of adopting amendments to the budget.

- 1) Mr. Allen Cohen, 31 Pin Oak Drive, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
- 2) Ms. Andrea Pennington, 59 Gedney Road, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
- 3) Ms. Carol Katz-Connelly, 21 West Long Drive, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
- 4) Ms. Harper Collins, 80 Craven Lane, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
- 5) Mr. Michael Stern, 12 Gary Court, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
- 6) Ms. Melissa Hitzel, 335 Glenn Avenue, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Kownacki closed Public Participation.

After the discussion, the following resolution with amendments was presented and adopted by the vote recorded herein:

**Resolution No. 160-12**

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IN TAXES  
FOR THE BASE BUDGET FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013**

WHEREAS, the voters of the Township of Lawrence in a duly held election, did fail to approve the General Fund Tax Levy Budget of the Board of Education of the Township of Lawrence for the school year 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, the Education, Budgets and Appropriations Law, N.J.S.A. 28a-22-37, requires the Governing Body of the Township of Lawrence, after consultation with the Lawrence Township Board of Education, to determine the amount which is necessary to be appropriated in such budget and to certify to the County Board of Taxation the total amount so determined; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Lawrence has consulted with representatives of the Lawrence Township Board of Education, and has therefore determined the amount necessary to be appropriated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the following determination is hereby made:

- |    |  |               |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | The original tax levy on the ballot for the base budget:     | \$ 58,042,655 |
| 2. | The amount of reduction to the tax levy for the base budget: | \$ 500,000    |
| 3. | The amount of tax levy being certified for the base budget:  | \$ 57,542,655 |
| 4. | Specific line item reductions:                               |               |
|    | a. School-Sponsored Athletics – Instruction                  |               |
|    | 06100: Purchased Services                                    | \$ (3,600)    |
|    | b. Undistributed Expenditures – Support Services             |               |

<b>School Administration</b>	
<b>07010: Salaries of Principals/Asst. Principals/ Program Directors</b>	<b>\$ (50,000)</b>
<b>c. Undistributed Expenditures – Support Services</b>	
<b>School Administration</b>	
<b>07030: Salaries of Secretarial and Clerical Assistants</b>	<b>\$ (41,624)</b>
<b>07030: Salaries of Secretarial and Clerical Assistants</b>	<b>\$ (12,285)</b>
<b>d. Undistributed Expenditures – Instructional Staff</b>	
<b>Training Services</b>	
<b>07607: Other Purchased Services</b>	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>
<b>e. Undistributed Expenditures – Custodial Services</b>	
<b>07626: Salaries</b>	<b>\$ (55,000)</b>
<b>f. Undistributed Expenditures – Custodial Services</b>	
<b>07634: Energy (Electrical)</b>	<b>\$ (70,000)</b>
<b>g. Capital Outlay</b>	
<b>07690: Increase in Capital Reserve</b>	<b>\$ (61,951)</b>
<b>h. Equipment</b>	
<b>08130: Undistributed Expenditures – Support Services – Instructional Staff</b>	<b>\$ (45,000)</b>
<b>08130: Undistributed Expenditures – Support Services – Instructional Staff</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>
<b>i. Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services</b>	
<b>08270: Construction Services</b>	<b>\$ (60,000)</b>
<b>j. Undistributed Expenditures – Security</b>	

**15900: Salaries** **\$ (23,040)**

**k. District Wide – All Supplies** **\$ (62,500)**

5. **Supporting reasons for reduction: Based upon review of all data provided by the Board of Education, meetings with representatives of the Board of Education, and consideration of the public need, it has been determined that the reductions set forth herein can be effectuated without a reduction in programs or negatively impacting upon the education of the students.**
6. **The revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education.**
7. **There was no additional general fund tax levy considered by the voters.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Lawrence Township Board of Education, Superintendent of the Mercer County Department of Education, and the Administrator of the Mercer County Board of Taxation.**

**RECORD OF VOTE**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>MOVE</b>	<b>SECOND</b>
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

**Adjourned: 7:45 pm**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James S. Kownacki, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk**