

Committee Meeting – March 15, 2010
MAYOR’S REPORT

SHARED SERVICES:

In a continuing effort to explore shared service opportunities, the Administrator and I met with Stafford Township officials last week. It was a very productive meeting and Barnegat will be working closely with Stafford on developing some promising shared services between the two (2) towns. The possibility of working collectively with both Stafford and Ocean Townships along with our school board will greatly enhance our ability to stabilize or lower operating cost while maintaining quality municipal services that our residents deserve to receive. Also, another Ocean County community reached out to Barnegat today and expressed an interest in shared services with the Township. There is no question that a major focus of the state in controlling the cost of government at all levels will be encouraging the shared service concept. Hopefully financial incentives will be offered to those towns willing to take the lead and participate. Barnegat will continue to work hard to foster shared services among our neighbors.

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Mr. Breeden will outline the issue of our health insurance versus other local municipalities and our school’s. One thing that I found interesting is that all of the other entities involved in this comparison are now considering changing to our plan for 2011. This is due to the fact that although our insurance is more expensive now, it will be cheaper in 2011 and into the future as the State’s health insurance is due to go up again another 25% as it did this past January 1st. Dave will go into the details during his report.

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BARNEGAT’S 2010 BUDGETS:

Tomorrow is the Super Bowl of budget messages for all of us in the state of New Jersey. Once the Governor has released the state aid figures in his budget address tomorrow, the Township and the School Board will be able to move forward with our budgets. The Township Committee will be working closely with the School Board in areas that will yield significant long term cost savings. It is anticipated that at the first meeting in April, the Township Committee will be in a position to take formal action to start the process of saving the taxpayers of Barnegat money by working closely with the schools.

WEEKEND COASTAL STORM

Consistent with the theme of the “*year of the storm*”, Barnegat experienced yet another major nor’easter over the weekend. Weather related incidents were minor in nature and there were no reported injuries or major private property damage. There were reports of some sporadic power outages that were brief in duration. The bayfront took the brunt of the storm as Bayshore Drive was closed due to flooding for the entire weekend. The beach or what is left of the beach, received damaged along with considerable sand and debris washing up on Bayshore Drive. As usual, the Township’s police, fire, first aid and public works employees managed the weekend storm very well and had everything under control. Look on the bright side, at least it was not snow!!

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS:

Just a reminder that the deadline to file an appeal of your property assessment is Thursday, April 1st. Tax appeal forms must be at the County Board of Taxation office by 4:30pm on this date. If you need assistance or have questions on the appeal process, please call our Tax Assessor’s office @ 698-0080, ext. 145 or 146.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 16 – The Friends of the Barnegat Library will celebrate Women’s History Month with Eleanor Roosevelt at 7 PM with snacks and a first hand look at the former First Lady’s life as an advocate of women’s rights.

Tuesday, March 23 – The annual Blue Mass honoring our Police, Fire and EMS will be held at St. Mary’s Church at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, March 27 – The Little League’s opening day parade will be at 9 AM and go from the Collins School to the ball fields on Barnegat Blvd.

Saturday, March 27 -- From 9 to 11 AM is the Bunny Breakfast at the Barnegat Township Community Center. Advance tickets are required and are available at the Recreation Department at extension 122.

Saturday, March 27 –The first annual Spring Egg Hunt at the Gazebo Park will be held from noon until 2:00pm. It is free for all the kids and is sponsored by Spiaggia e Luna Restaurant. Lots of prizes, a giant bunny and face painting are featured at the event. No preregistration is needed.

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township