

**Committee Meeting – April 28, 2008
MAYOR’S REPORT**

RECENT FIRE:

AS I’M SURE YOU ARE AWARE, A RECENT FIRE CLAIMED OVER 100 ACRES OF THE PINELAND FOREST. FORTUNATELY, THERE WAS NO LOSS TO HOMES OR PERSONAL PROPERTY. I HAVE TO CREDIT THIS TO THE QUICK RESPONSE OF OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES, SPECIFICALLY, OUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS, OUR FIRST AID SQUAD, THE FOREST FIRE SERVICE AND NUMEROUS OUTSIDE AGENCIES THAT SWIFTLY CAME TO OUR AID. THE BARNEGAT POLICE DEP’T AND THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HANDLED ALL OF THE LOGISTICS OF THE EVENT WITH THE UTMOST OF PROFESSIONALISM. MANY OF OUR CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS AND OUR BOY SCOUTS SET UP EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR OUR RESIDENTS AS WELL AS OUR EQUINE COMMUNITY. MY THANKS GO OUT TO ALL OF THEM FOR AGAIN RISING TO THE OCCASION AND THINKING OF THOSE IN NEED IN A CRITICAL SITUATION. WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE THAT WE DID NOT HAVE A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR’S WILDFIRE.

SWAT COMPETITION:

ON TONIGHT’S AGENDA WE WILL BE HONORING TWO MEMBERS OF OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR RECENT BACK TO BACK WIN AS THE WORLD’S BEST SWAT TEAM. CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR PATROLMEN CHRIS SMITH AND ANDREW PARSLEY FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AS MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY SWAT TEAM AS THEY EXEMPLIFY THE EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SCHOOL BUDGET:

I’M SURE THAT EVERYONE IS ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHAT IS GOING ON WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET. AT PRESENT A SUB-COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AND THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR PURPOSE OF HOLDING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE BUDGET. NEXT MONDAY EVENING, MAY 5TH, WILL BE THE FIRST OPEN PUBLIC MEETING TO HEAR INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET.

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THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE BARNEGAT HIGH SCHOOL AT 6:30 PM. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD BY THE BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE OVER THE NEXT WEEK AND ANOTHER OPEN PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 12TH AGAIN AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AT 6:30 PM.

MENK HEARINGS:

THE HEARINGS BY THE OCEAN COUNTY CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS ON THE MENK/UCC MATTER HAVE BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 20TH AND IF NEEDED, MAY 27TH AT 2 PM.

BEACH CLEANUP:

I ATTENDED THE ANNUAL BEACH SWEEPS BEACH CLEANUP AT OUR BATHING BEACH THIS PAST SATURDAY. ABOUT A DOZEN VOLUNTEERS SHOWED UP TO CLEAN UP DEBRIS AND LITTER. THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED.

TOWNWIDE YARD SALE:

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTED THE ANNUAL TOWN WIDE YARD SALE LAST SATURDAY AND IT WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS. WITH OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR, IT WAS BY FAR THE LARGEST YARD SALE EVENT EVER HELD BY THEM. PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT ARE DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY FUND OF THE CHAMBER AND RETURNED TO THE VARIOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY. MANY THANKS TO THE CHAMBER FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

HORIZONS:

THE ADMINISTRATOR, CHIEF OF POLICE AND I ATTENDED THE HOMEOWNER’S ASSN MEETING AT HORIZONS AT BARNEGAT LAST WEEK. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF DELIVERING A CHECK FOR \$92,500. TO THEM FROM THE BOND COMPANY FOR ITEMS LEFT UNDONE FROM THE KARA HOMES BANCURPCY. THE THREE OF US FIELDDED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FROM THE GROUP ON ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS THE FIRE, ATV ACTIVITY AND SECURITY AROUND THEIR PERIMETER.

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COX HOUSE:

THE HISTORIC BUILDING ARCHITECTS, LLC OF TRENTON HAS BEGUN THE STUDY OF THE OUTBUILDING AT THE COX HOUSE. PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS AND INSPECTIONS WERE PERFORMED LAST WEEK AS PART OF THEIR EVALUATION.

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR MUNICIPAL CLERK AND BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE OF 27 YEARS, VERONICA E. JASINA WILL BE RETIRING AS OF JUNE 30TH. RONI HAS PROVEN TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS OF OUR TOWNSHIP. HER EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOWNSHIP’S AFFAIRS AS WELL AS HER OVERALL EXPERTISE IN HER POSITION AS TOWNSHIP CLERK HAS MADE ALL OF OUR JOBS MUCH EASIER. WE ARE ALL FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD RONI DEDICATE HER CAREER TO BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP. ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AND THE RESIDENTS OF BARNEGAT, I WISH HER ALL THE BEST IN HER WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT AND WISH HER MANY MORE YEARS TO ENJOY IT.

WITH THAT SAID, THE COMMITTEE WAS LEFT WITH A VACANCY THAT ISN’T EASILY FILLED. ADDED TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA IS A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KATHLEEN “KAY” WEST TO ACT IN BEHALF OF THE CLERK UNTIL RONI OFFICIALLY RETIRES IN JUNE. KAY HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS. WITH HER DEDICATION AND KNOWLEDGE AS THE DEPUTY CLERK, IT WAS ONLY NATURAL TO HAVE HER FILL THE POSITION UNTIL A FORMAL APPOINTMENT CAN BE MADE. I WOULD BE HONORED TO SEE KAY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF OUR TOWNSHIP CLERK ON A PERMANENT BASIS. ALSO ON THE AGENDA, SHARON AUER WILL BE APPOINTED AS THE TEMPORARY DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK.

THANK YOU,

**JEFFREY M. MELCHIONDO
MAYOR, BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP**