

**ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003 AT 6:30 P.M., THE JACKSON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE HELD A SPECIAL MEETING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMITTEEMAN BRODERICK     ATTORNEY SCOTT KENNEALLY**  
**COMMITTEEMAN GRISANTI     ADMINISTRATOR KENNEDY**  
**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY        MONICA PASCARELLA, INTERIM CLERK**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR GIBLIN**  
**MAYOR KAFTON**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE DR. MARLOWE**

As Clerk of this meeting, I publicly announce that in compliance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act" adequate notice of this meeting of the Jackson Township Committee has been advertised in the manner prescribed by law. This statement shall be entered into the Minutes of this meeting.

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**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**COMMITTEEMAN BRODERICK:** He thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their effort to meet and discuss the issues with the Board of Education. He also thanked the Board of Education Superintendent Tom Gialanella, Board President Mike Hanlon, Board members Marty Spielman, Marvin Krakower and all the rest involved. They have been working collectively with the Township in order to remedy this situation.

**COMMITTEEMAN GRISANTI:** He stated to save time he would like to ditto the comments of Committeeman Broderick. He added that there were several years in a row the school budget was passed and those were the good years. Unfortunately, the past two years they have had to get involved in the budget and he hopes this becomes the exception and not the rule. He thanked everyone who was involved in this process and said he believes the result is a good one.

**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY:** He explained that this Committee was given a mandate by the voters and the taxpayers to recommend cuts to the School Board. It is difficult any time to make cuts to the school budget. He stated that he was a graduate of the Jackson schools along with Mr. Kafton and Mr. Giblin and his father served on the School Board for 13 years. He thanked the School Board members, the Superintendent and Mr. Brennan for their cooperation.

**DEPUTY MAYOR GIBLIN:** He began by thanking everyone for coming out. He said this was a difficult situation with the budget being defeated by a margin of 3 to 2. It was through the hard work of the subcommittee made up of himself and Mayor Kafton along with the Board of Education's subcommittee and their professional staff that they were able to earmark some areas to save the taxpayers money. By no means were any educational programs, after school programs or anything that was educationally sound and in the best interest of the children of Jackson affected by these cuts. It was through the cooperation of the Board of Education and the Township Committee that they came up with this agreement and continue to work for the best interest of the children of Jackson.

**MAYOR KAFTON:** He stated that everybody on the Committee said exactly what he was thinking. The only thing he would like to add is that on the subcommittee for the School Board they had Mr. Spielman, Mr. Gialanella and Mrs. Lackay. He thanked them for their cooperation with Deputy Mayor Giblin and himself along with Mr. Ryley and Mr. Kennedy. Everyone worked so diligently to come up with a compromise that does not hurt the children, which is the most important thing. He thanked Dr. Marlowe for his efforts he put forth for the betterment of the community.

**DEPUTY MAYOR GIBLIN:** He too thanked Dr. Marlowe for bringing his many years of experience to this and being able to assist them and the Board of Education.

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**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED, RESOLUTIONS ONLY:**

**MIKE HANLON, 168 WHITE ROAD:** He echoed what the Committeemen said and added that right from the beginning they were able to sit down and work together. The Board of Education members were obviously disheartened by the loss of the budget and felt what they had put together was sound. They all took the time to sit down and go through it and come up with some good ideas. The other good thing about this process is it ensures that they will continue working together with the Township Committee for the betterment of the children. Our schools don't only impact our children, but also the adults of the community because they do provide services to them too.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING, RESOLUTIONS ONLY BY:**

**BRODERICK**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: GIBLIN**

**YES: BRODERICK, GRISANTI, REILLY, GIBLIN & KAFTON**

**RESOLUTION 228R-03**

**TITLE: APPROVE/CERTIFY THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR THE JACKSON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET (PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:13-19)**

**MAYOR KAFTON:** For the Public's edification the budget will be cut by \$2.2 Million dollars. That is a 4½ cent decrease out of an original 17 ½ cent budget and 7½ cents of that was already earmarked from last years referendum. That left 10 cents, in which 4½ cents was cut.

**COMMITTEEMAN GRISANTI:** He explained as the only former Board of Education member sitting up here, this is always a very painful process for him. He spoke about 1996 and 1997 and the courtesy bus issue. He stated that he has reviewed these cuts and is going to vote yes because in speaking with the professionals it is his understanding that none of these cuts will affect any programs or any curriculum.

**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY:** He stated that he is also voting yes because there are no academic programs being cut.

**DEPUTY MAYOR GIBLIN:** In the best interest of the taxpayers and the children of Jackson he is voting yes.

**MAYOR KAFTON:** He stated as a lifelong resident of Jackson and a product of the Jackson school system he too doesn't want to see these cuts hurt the children's education or any of their programs. This budget has accomplished that and he too is voting yes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE BY: GRISANTI**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: BRODERICK**

**YES: BRODERICK, GRISANTI, REILLY, GIBLIN & KAFTON**

**WHEREAS,** a majority of the voters of the Township of Jackson voted on April 15, 2003 to reject the General Fund proposed budget tax levy of \$52,199,361.00 (including debt service); and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37, the budget was submitted to the governing body for its review and determination of the amount, which in its judgment, is necessary to provide a thorough and efficient education for the students in the Jackson Township School District; and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:13-19, the governing body consulted with members of the Board of Education and its administration and has reviewed the proposed budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body in consultation with the members of the Board of Education and its administration, has reached an agreement with the Board of Education determining the amount of the General Fund Tax Levy for the 2003/2004 school year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Jackson, County of Ocean and State of New Jersey:

1. The amount to be included in the taxes to be assessed, levied and collected for the Jackson Township School District for school purposes for the 2003/2004 fiscal year shall be \$49,999,361.00 (including debt service), which constitutes a reduction from the originally proposed budget tax levy in the amount of \$2,200,000.00.
2. The budget tax levy set forth above is an amount necessary to provide a thorough and efficient education in the Jackson Township School District for the 2003/2004 fiscal year.
3. A statement of the specific line-item reductions in budgeted revenues is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**ANN MARIE EDEN, R.M.C.  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**DATED: 05/15/03**

**EXHIBIT A  
AGREED UPON BUDGET REDUCTIONS  
AND  
INCREASE IN BUDGET REVENUE**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
000-100-500	TUITION	\$300,000.00
000-213-100	HEALTH SALARIES	\$50,000.00
000-218-105	GUIDANCE SECRETARY	\$26,000.00
000-219-104	SPECIAL SERVICES	\$170,000.00
000-222-100	MEDIA SALARY	\$44,000.00
000-240-103	VICE PRINCIPAL	\$97,000.00
000-262-300	RIGHT TO KNOW TESTING	\$17,875.00
000-262-420	MAINTENANCE SERVICES	\$23,000.00
000-262-620	ENERGY	\$241,000.00
000-291-270	HEALTH BENEFITS	\$828,000.00
120-100-101	ELEMENTARY SALARY	\$40,000.00
130-100-101	MIDDLE SCHOOL SALARY	\$40,000.00
140-100-101	HIGH SCHOOL SALARY	\$40,000.00
204-100-101	L.D. TEACHER SALARY	\$160,000.00
230-100-106	BASIC SKILLS AIDE	\$96,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,172,875.00</b>

REDUCTION			
MISC REVENUE			+27,125.00
TOTAL REDUCTION IN SCHOOL TAX LEVEY			<b>\$2,200.000.00</b>

**DATED: 05/15/03**

**ANN MARIE EDEN, R.M.C.  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY:** He stressed that they should give as much as they can to the Board of Education as a Committee by passing through funds.

**MAYOR KAFTON:** He stated that they are very excited to be able to pass through \$250,000 this year to help the schools with capital improvements. This is the first time in history that a Township Committee stepped up to the plate to help out the Board of Education. Committeeman Reilly added that he thinks they could do more.

**COMMITTEEMAN GRISANTI:** He explained that the best way to address this issue is with our State Legislators who need to convene a special convention to deal with the property tax issue. Unless they address this issue now, it will keep happening again and again in the future. This has to be addressed at the State level, which hasn't been done in the past. He urged everyone to write letters or call our 30<sup>th</sup> District Legislators and ask them to really move on this issue. Not the issue of a special summer session because that is really just window dressing, but voting on the issue pending calling for a special convention.

**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY:** He explained that the State law is permissive and allows them to transfer as much funds as they collect in the name of the schools.

**COMMITTEEMAN BRODERICK:** He explained that he had the opportunity today to visit the Commissioner of Education's office and was told by their office that they are the first township to pass money to the schools and hopes to see other towns follow suit and do what they are doing.

**PUBLIC HEARING, ANY TOPIC:**

**COLLEEN MEINER, 25 BUTTERFLY ROAD:** She stated she understands that they are the first town to pass that money to the schools, but they should not have to wait for the State to come up with rules or to amend the law that is already written. She told them that they could do what they want. She asked them to pass the money on and not wait for the State to say that they have to do it. She explained that understands that they need to consider the taxes they haven't collected and any other money they need to take out for expenses, but they should then do the right thing and pass the money on. She also understood that they have approved the budget, but she asked what departments are being affected by the \$2.2 Million cut? Deputy Mayor Giblin explained that they are not educators so it really wasn't their call where the cuts were made. Committeeman Grisanti stated that the School Board can transfer funds from line to line through out the year. They may make cuts now on certain line items and then in September with the new influx of students they may have to alter their proposals.

**THOMAS GIALANELLA, SUPERINTENDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION:** He began by saying he really appreciates all the help the Committee has given them.

This has been a team project that they have worked on from the beginning. It is true that it is really the School Board's duty to make these cuts. The Committee by law has to make some type of suggestion. We took this one step further and worked with the Committee to come up with an agreement. Mr. Grisanti is right when he mentioned that the School Board is also allowed to transfer funds because of some unforeseen emergencies. The School Board has to start their budget in November and they are just guessing on population and other issues that may be coming up. He stated that there is a list of different accounts and things that were cut from the budget to make the \$2.2 Million dollar cuts. He explained that they looked at consolidating some jobs and cut back on hiring 4 new teachers, but in total they were hiring 53 new teachers and now are down to 49. When they have a closer look at the enrollment they will then decide where those cuts will come from. They are looking at health benefit issues, there were some givebacks in our programs on the board that they have negotiated with the unions and it gave them some different rates. There were other small line items that are listed on the handout. In a nutshell besides staffing, they are not making any deep enough cuts that will affect class size, or anything that will affect the academic performance of the students. They are looking at some ways in changing the way that the Jackson School District operates and helping the academic achievement and how the students perform on State academic tests. He again thanked the Committee for all their help and support and said that hopefully this is a start of some serious cooperation of these two groups.

**MARTY SPIELMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER:** He stated that it was an absolute pleasure to work with the subcommittee of the Township Committee on this issue. He couldn't have met with two nicer or dedicated gentlemen, Mayor Kafton and Deputy Mayor Giblin. They were committed to looking at giving the taxpayers the highest possible relief that they could and at the same time do the most they could for the children in our town and not eliminate any programs. He stated that he felt that because they were working with a new Superintendent it was incumbent upon them to give him the opportunity to work and improve the education of all the youngsters in the township. He is very proud to be a Jacksonite and work on this project with these dedicated individuals. It had nothing to do with politics, it had to do with people and to do what was right for the town.

**COMMITTEEMAN REILLY:** He stated that as far as the \$250,000 appropriation they still need to put together a Resolution to transfer that money and he would vote in favor of that Resolution.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON ANY TOPIC BY: GIBLIN**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY: BRODERICK**  
**YES: BRODERICK, GRISANTI, REILLY, GIBLIN & KAFTON**

**DR. MARLOWE:** He stated that he would like to reiterate his satisfaction in working with Mayor Kafton, Deputy Mayor Giblin and the administrative staff. As a former Superintendent of Schools and a former high school principal when he is called on to look at a school budget he tries not to cut programs or staff. They were able to retain all the programs that exist in Jackson along with the staff. They were also able to bring accommodations for the new students who will join the schools next year. There are problems with adequate room and building new schools, which still needs to be accomplished and with the reductions that were made the Board of Education will be able to do this. He stated that one concern that was raised for the school administration is to look very closely into the future so that the tax increases won't be extravagant in one given year. He thanked them for giving him the opportunity to be of service to Jackson Township. Deputy Mayor Giblin thanked him for his efforts and said jokingly that they hope not to see him next year.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: GIBLIN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: KAFTON**

**YES: BRODERICK, GRISANTI, REILLY, GIBLIN & KAFTON**

**7:05 PM**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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**MONICA PASCARELLA,  
INTERIM CLERK**

**AME/tvc**