

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 11, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

- 2. Adequate notice** of this meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on Wednesday, December 31, 2008; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 31, 2008 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

\*Notice of change of meeting location was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.). The Borough Council opens every public meeting for comments of the public. However, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 : "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the discretion of a public body to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation at any meeting,...."

Speakers at Borough meetings shall have five minutes to present their comments to the Borough Council so as not to consume time that would otherwise be allotted to other persons who wish to speak. Speakers shall be courteous to the Council and other persons attending the meeting. Offensive remarks or unruly behavior will not be allowed and anyone who violates this policy will be barred from participating in the meeting.

**3. Flag Salute**

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence to pray for our troops overseas and their safe return.

**4. Roll Call**

Councilman Driscoll, Councilman Sorge, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, and Carolyn Rinaldi were also present. Councilman Sadow was absent. Joseph Kovalcik joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**5. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments**

1. Mayor's Appointments to Board of Recreation Commission.  
The Mayor appointed Brenda Temple and Stacey Peia to the Board of Recreation Commission.

**6. Old Business**

1. Council Committee Reports - Council Cancelled this Section at the Meeting.

**7. New Business**

None.

**8. Utility Receipt Report** for the Month of April, 2009.

The Clerk read the Utility Receipt Report for April, 2009 into the record.  
Grand Total: \$226,247.13.

**Tax Collector's Report** for the Month of April, 2009.

The Clerk read the Tax Collectors Report for April, 2009 into the record.  
Total Receipts: \$775,430.86.

**9. Approval of Minutes**

None.

**10. Executive Session**

None.

## 11. Resolutions

- 2009-93** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated May 11, 2009.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Cerasoli.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman – except #7501,  
Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

The following Resolutions were Approved by Consent of Council:

- 2009-94** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Salary Increases for Police Chief and Lieutenant.
- 2009-95** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing a Lifeguard for the 2009 Summer Season.
- 2009-96** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Lifeguards for the 2009 Summer Season.
- 2009-97** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Temporary Closure of the Mount Arlington Beach and Mount Arlington Beach Parking Lot.
- 2009-98** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting Adoption of Idle Free Zones.
- 2009-99** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Eliminating Post-Retirement Health Benefits for FOP Lodge 78 Members Commencing Employment with the Borough On or After January 1, 2009.
- 2009-100** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing a Non Political Partisan Policy for Parades Sponsored, Coordinated, Organized or Arranged by the Borough of Mount Arlington.

Motion to Approve Resolution #2009-94 through Resolution #2009-100

By Consent: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Cerasoli.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President  
Cerasoli, Doran.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

## 12. Ordinances – Introduction

- 14-09** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending the Code of the Borough of Mount Arlington Regarding Charges for Certified Copies of Any Vital Records.

The Mayor read Ordinance 14-09 by Title.

Motion: Councilman Driscoll stated that Ordinance 14-09 be introduced by Title and passed on First Reading and that a meeting be held on June 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, NJ, for a Public Hearing, consideration of Second Reading and Passage of said Ordinance, and that the Clerk be directed

to publish, post and make available said Ordinance in accordance with the requirements of law.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call:

Aye: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

- 15-09** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending the Code of the Borough of Mount Arlington Creating the Position of Recreation Director and Establishing the Salary Range for Said Position.

Motion to **Table** Ordinance #15-09: Council President Cerasoli.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call:

Aye: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.  
None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

### 13. Ordinances – Second Reading

None.

### 14. Motions

1. Letter from Knee Deep Club, dated April 27, 2009, regarding Junior Derby and Outing for Handicapped on June 13, 2009.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Council President Cerasoli.

Roll Call:

Aye: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.  
None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

2. Raffle License Application #RA:09-05 from the Mount Arlington PTA for a Raffle to be held June 23, 2009 at 235 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call:

Aye: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.  
None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

### 15. Budget Forum Discussion

The Mayor stated that the goal of this discussion is to receive constructive feedback regarding the budget; this is not a hearing, we are not passing the budget tonight and probably will not pass the budget until late July because we are waiting for state extraordinary aid and for a budget cap waiver. The State runs on fiscal year budget but the Borough runs on a calendar year budget. We are here to answer questions and listen to what people are thinking; we welcome everyone's feedback.

Veronica Silkes, Succasunna Road:

- Ms. Silkes questioned the cap amount. The Borough Administrator stated that we can save the cap for two years if we do not use it all. We set the cap bank aside because we did not need to use the whole cap; when we go to the 3.5%, we are allowed to raise more in taxes. If we don't raise them, on the cap side, we can set aside the cap and use it next year and the

year after that. Ms. Silkes stated that Council approved the cap resolutions for 2007 and 2008. The Borough Administrator said that specific amount of money was not used because there wasn't enough in the cap portion of the budget, we did not need the entire cap. This gives us the ability to raise taxes to a certain level. We can raise the taxes 2.5% or 3.5%, we are saying we want the ability to raise them 3.5% but we did not have enough charges in the inside the cap area of the budget so whatever we did not raise, that money sits there and we can apply it to this years cap, which means we can go that much higher this year if we need to. The money was never collected, and we might have lost some cap money, because we didn't need the taxes so we didn't raise them; we just had the ability to raise them.

- Ms. Silkes asked the process of creating the budget. The Borough Administrator explained that for the last 8 or 9 years, the Finance Department gives each Department Head what they spent to that time of year, usually September/October; this gives them an idea of what was requested and actually used. The Administrator, CFO, Carolyn Rinaldi and the Treasurer sit down with the Department Heads and ask for their desired budget. For the most part, budgets are not increased, many are decreased. The Council is then given a summary of what the budget will look like and it is discussed before it is introduced.

- Ms. Silkes stated that at the Citizens Budget Review Committee meeting, they discussed services and what the residents get for their tax dollars; at the meeting, the Mayor said he would reiterate his answer at this meeting. The Mayor stated the residents are afforded police services, fire and rescue services, street lighting, snow removal, open space, parks and recreation, road maintenance, library, dial-a-ride.

- Ms. Silkes questioned the hotel tax and asked how much is owed to Mount Arlington. Joseph Kovalcik stated the State owes us approximately \$50,000. Mr. Kovalcik stated that the Finance team has been going after the State for the money but to no avail as of yet.

- Ms. Silkes stated that at the Citizens Budget Committee meeting, Councilman Sadow said the reserve is \$69,000 but she reads surplus/reserve at \$180,000; with this budget, what is supposed to go into reserves. Mr. Kovalcik stated the reserve will probably be between \$69,000 and \$75,000. Mr. Kovalcik stated there are two different types of fund balance; there is the cash fund balance and non-cash balance, which is made up of inner funds. If they are non-fund cash balance, we cannot anticipate those revenues into the budget. Whatever we do have left in reserves, we are not allowed to anticipate those under the law. In the budget document, one line says surplus anticipated and the other comes from the unaudited annual financial statement in which there is a schedule of fund balance (sheet 38). Mr. Kovalcik stated that on sheet 4, you will see what we anticipated but you need to see the unaudited financial statement, sheet 38, and see what part is pledged to non-cash surplus.

Henry Bernhardt, 80 Ridgeview Lane:

- Mr. Bernhardt asked where he could obtain hard copies of the budget. The Mayor stated at the Clerk's Office, the Library and the County Library.

- Mr. Bernhardt asked when the sewers would be paid for. The Mayor stated we have at least 5 or 6 years left; it was a 17 year loan, it would have been a 20 year loan but the Borough obtained grant money. The Mayor stated that once the sewers are paid for, the monthly fee will go down but we will be paying user and maintenance fees.

- Mr. Bernhardt asked about the hotel tax and the difficulty collecting this from the State. The State still has to pay the municipalities back. The Mayor stated that for last year alone, the State owes us \$41,000.

Rich O'Connell, 30 Rogerene Way:

- Mr. O'Connell asked the tax increase this year. The Mayor stated that with the current budget, it is \$11.03; on an average home it is about \$338.39, if we do not get any aid.

- Mr. O'Connell stated that Mount Arlington seems to get very little aid compared to other towns in the area; we seem to get the lowest of the low. The Mayor stated that a lot of the formula is based on population and the State does not know how the stimulus money will be distributed.

- Mr. O'Connell stated that the Mayor listed the Borough services but Mr. O'Connell is on a septic system, well water, his kids go to Catholic school; he gets fire and rescue services but that is all volunteers. The Mayor stated the Borough pays for the fire and EMS equipment and fuel, etc. The Mayor stated that Morris County is the second most affluent county in the nation and Mount Arlington still has one of the lowest tax rates in the 39 municipalities.

Robert Silkes, Succasunna Road:

- Mr. Silkes asked what percentage is the tax rate at \$11.03 per hundred. The Borough Administrator replied that it is 19% increase on the municipal portion.
- Mr. Silkes was disappointed that the electronic signs advertised lifeguards rather than this budget meeting.

Paula Danchuk, 50 Elizabeth Way:

- Ms. Danchuk stated that she is very unhappy with the budget especially because of all the cuts that have been made: loss of 17 employees, no chipping service, all the shared services put together with other towns in order to save money. A lot has been done to trim the budget and we are still seeing an increase. Ms. Danchuk asked that with the new shared services, where will the records show what we are paying Suburban. The Mayor stated we will not see any value from the shared services until next year. The Borough Administrator explained that the Technical Assistant, Engineering and Zoning are professional agreements and will be stipulated on our bill list, they are included on the operating side of each of those departments.

## 16. Open to Public

None.

## 17. Mayor's Report

The Mayor read his report into the record.

Councilwoman Galate Goodman suggested Mr. Kovalcik explain the loss of revenues the Borough is dealing with which is contributing to the increase in taxes. Mr. Kovalcik said the surplus anticipated is down \$570,000 from the previous year so we, over the past few years, have taken our fund balance and have been using that to offset some of the taxes. The interest rates are down; we lost about \$85,000 in interest this year. Sewer and water receipts are down about \$30,000; water and sewer connection fees were on our books in prior years but we lost almost one-half million dollars that we previously anticipated as revenue. We have been using those revenues to offset taxes for the last 5 years or so. The State owes us \$41,000 on hotel/motel occupancy tax, and we lost state aid, almost another \$11,000. These items alone are \$1.2 million we lost in major revenue categories going forward from 2008 to 2009. We were able to pick up money in interfunds, pre-paid school taxes, and a couple of additional items that helped us pick-up \$400,000. We are looking at a deficit in revenues of \$850,000 this year.

### **\*\*The Mayor opened the meeting to the Public once again.**

Unnamed Speaker:

- The Speaker asked about surplus and revenue. Mr. Kovalcik stated that, as example, the sewer connection fees: when we first set up sewers they took "X" amount of dollars in; they set up the reserve for those dollars, the reserve came from the connection fees. Mr. Kovalcik stated that just as the water, there were fees collected, so for the past 3-5 years we have been utilizing that to help offset the tax increases. The Speaker asked if the fees that were collected were surplus, how did we get surplus? Mr. Kovalcik stated they were the fees that were collected up-front. The Mayor stated that when the new developments came in we were to receive hook up fees, which was a large amount, that is the surplus money we are talking about. The Speaker asked if there was a dollar amount attached to the water and the sewer. Mr. Kovalcik stated we don't have \$106,000 that we had last year in the reserve of water connection fees, and the reserve for sewer connection fees are \$405,000.

- Mr. Kovalcik stated that the actual overall budget decreased over the prior year; we are \$73,000 less than last years budget, including all the mandates. The Mayor stated our budget is really bare bones, no extras, we have cut out our capital projects, the project on Howard Boulevard has been in the works for ten years and we received 3 grants for that project and it was bonded a long time ago. The Mayor stated that the other capital project that will be starting is the Village Center Flood Control, which will be on Windemere Avenue by Barnes Bros., which includes a large sand filter that will filter the water from Memorial

Pond; the Borough is not paying for this portion of the project, it is funded through a grant obtained by the Lake Hopatcong Commission. This project has to be done because of the federal stormwater runoff regulations; that money is not new money affecting this budget. The Mayor stated that he is happy that we spent the money and did all the work over the last 10 years with the money from Community Development; we were able to replace our fire equipment, replace DPW equipment, refurbish most of the roads in need, take care of our buildings and grounds, so everything is up to speed and we now have the ability to coast for a couple of years without having to do major projects. This is a budget of anticipated needs for the continuing operations of the Borough. The Mayor stated we have two office buildings and a development which have been approved but not constructed because of regulations dealing with the Highlands Act. The two office buildings are big ratables that will help our taxes and another 60 unit development where we would have more help with revenue. We will have to spend money on appropriate maintenance but we will not have any major capital projects. The next Citizens Budget Review Committee meeting will be May 19, 2009.

**18. Borough Administrator's Report**

None.

**19. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Sorge.  
Second: Councilwoman Galate Goodman.  
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.  
Motion Approved.

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Linda DeSantis, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved with Correction at Council Meeting of May 26, 2009.

# BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

419 HOWARD BOULEVARD  
MT. ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07856  
TAX & UTILITY OFFICE  
(973) 398-6832 EXT. 13 & 14  
FAX (973) 398-2309

## UTILITY RECEIPT REPORT FOR

MONTH OF April 2009

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>COLLECTED IN 2008</u>
\$ 25,745.13	SOLID WASTE RECEIPTS	\$20,389.83
\$ 168,903.91	SEWER RECEIPTS	\$172,070.81
\$ 31,598.09	WATER RECEIPTS	\$38,905.00
<b>\$ 226,247.13</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$231,365.64</b>
\$ 29.07	(TRUST ACCT) SEWER CONNECTION FEE INSTALLMENT PLAN RECEIPTS	
	WATER REPAIR RECEIPTS (INCLUDED IN WATER RECEIPT TOTAL)	
\$ 40.00	RETURN CHECK FEE (SEWER)	

Completed By Patricia E. Simari, CTC

# BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

419 HOWARD BOULEVARD  
MT. ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07856  
TAX & UTILITY OFFICE  
(973) 398-6832 EXT. 13 & 14  
FAX (973) 398-2309

To the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Mt. Arlington:  
**I hereby submit my report of receipts & disbursements for**

## The Month of April 2009

Dated May 1, 2009

Completed By Patricia E. Simari, CTC

### Collections:

Current Taxes (8-01-17-001-001)	<u>\$ 742,656.37</u>
<u>2008</u> Taxes (8-01-17-001-002)	<u>\$ 29,398.92</u>
_____ Taxes (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Future Taxes (8-01-17-001-004)	
Municipal Redemption (8-01-17-004-001)	
Interest & Costs (8-01-08-112-000)	<u>\$ 3,329.07</u>
Interest & Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Return Ck. Fee (8-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Searches (8-01-08-105-010)	
Duplicate Bills (8-01-16-500-021)	<u>\$ 9.00</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Red./Subs (8-01-17-004-002)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Red. Int./Fees (8-01-17-004-003)	
Misc. Copies (8-01-16-500-021)	<u>\$ 37.50</u>
Tax Sale Costs (8-01-17-001-005)	
Tax Sale Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Tax Sale Premiums	
6% Delinquent Penalty (8-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Paid Certification	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$ 775,430.86</u></b>
<b><u>Total Receipts April 2008:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,126,335.20</u></b>

## Mayor report for 5/11/2009:

Since our 4/27/09 meeting:

4/27/09- The evening after our last meeting proved to be almost tragic for Steve Sadow. I want to once again publically thank our Fire Department under the leadership of Steve Norman for doing a great job in responding to a fire at the Sadow residence.

4/28/09- I attended a meeting of the Hopatcong Republican Club to give an update on what is going on with Lake Hopatcong. The current issue is the low water level but there are ongoing issues of funding the LHC weed harvesting operations.

4/29-5/2- I attended the Mayors Conference in Atlantic City. I was asked to be Co-Chair of the Conference this year so Mount Arlington was certainly recognized. This was the largest turnout in the NJCOM history of visiting Mayors. I believe with the current economic conditions we are all working together to share information on how we can get through the budget process. We are looking for ways to generate new revenue and lessen our current expenses. There were several seminars that focused on shared services and budgetary issues. It was a good conference offering the opportunity to share information through networking.

5/7/09- I attended a citizen's budget review committee meeting. We discussed this current budget and challenges that face the Borough in the future.

5/8/09- I attended an executive board meeting of the Mayors Committee for a Green Future in New Brunswick. Sustainable Jersey is becoming more and more popular. There are now 180 municipalities that have joined the cause. I am proud that Mount Arlington was one of the first. This year during the League of

Municipalities Convention in November there will be a luncheon on Tuesday in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom. This lunch will be called "Sustainability Lunch" and Municipalities that have joined Sustainable Jersey and have become certified will be recognized and given awards. It is great to see everyone coming together and working so diligently to make positive money saving changes that will also have a positive effect on the environment. I want to publically thank Councilwoman Galate, and our own MAGIC team. That is the Mount Arlington Green Initiatives Committee, for working on this program.

5/9/09- I attended Armed Forces Day at Picatinny Arsenal. There were very moving ceremonies and a great parade as well as displays of the equipment used by our war fighters.