

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2007**

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 January 18, 2007; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 8, 2007 and said notice is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Flag Salute

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

4. Roll Call

Councilwoman Mulligan – participated via speaker phone, Councilman Doran, Councilman Sorge, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, and Nancy Gage, Borough Attorney, were also present. Councilman Stone was absent due to emergency work.

5. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments

Proclamation presented to Councilwoman Cerasoli for her efforts toward the new Public Library.

- The Mayor read the Proclamation into the record and presented the plaque to Councilwoman Cerasoli.

6. Old Business

1. Resolution regarding Children in the Workplace.
 - The resolution limits the amount of time that children are allowed to be at work with their parents; they may visit, but cannot come to work with a parent. Days such as Take Your Child to Work Day would be an exception to the policy and Council can address separate resolutions for separate events. This resolution is listed on the agenda for Council approval.
2. Land Use Ordinance.
 - Daren Phil and Johanna LoPonte were present to discuss the floor area ratio portion of the Land Use Ordinance; Land Use Board Attorney Michael Selvaggi was not able to attend. Suburban Consulting prepared a lengthy study, including a calculation report, on the characterization of the Borough neighborhoods and proposed recommendations for each individual residential zones; Daren Phil discussed this study in depth.
3. Clerk's Follow-Up Report Memorandum, dated July 31, 2007.
 - The Clerk discussed the items on the follow-up list, noting further follow-up direction/status of any open items.

7. New Business

1. Resolution Supporting Kaleidoscope of Hope Walkathons and Proclaiming September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.
 - Council approved the Clerk to place this Resolution on the September 10, 2007 Agenda.
2. New recording system for Court Clerk and Municipal Clerk.
 - Quotes will be provided to the Council at the next meeting.
3. Fire Department Fundraiser/Chimney Safety.
 - Council requested the Clerk to invite the Fire Chief to the next Council meeting.
4. LaHue Property.
 - This property will be offered to the bordering neighbors; further discussion to be held at the next Council meeting.

8. Utility Receipt Report for the Months of June, 2007 and July, 2007.

The Clerk read the Utility Receipt Reports into the record:

For the Month of June, 2007	Grand Total: \$105,921.88
For the Month of July, 2007	Grand Total: \$157,008.86

Tax Collector's Report for the Months of June, 2007 and July, 2007.

The Clerk read the Tax Collector's Reports into the record:

For the Month of June, 2007	Total Receipts: \$128,291.22
For the Month of July, 2007	Total Receipts: \$664,337.68

9. Finance Report for the Months of May, 2007, June, 2007 and July, 2007.

The Clerk read the Finance Reports into the record:

For the Month of May, 2007	Total Available: \$186,816.00
For the Month of June, 2007	Total Available: \$183,762.00
For the Month of July, 2007	Total Available: \$489,045.00

10. Approval of Minutes

July 9, 2007 Regular Meeting

Motion to Approve: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran – Abstain, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

11. Open to Public

In an attempt to stop the rumors around town regarding the Police Department, the Mayor read an e-mail that he had recently sent to a resident regarding the police study into the record. (The email is attached hereto.)

There was a lengthy discussion during which time questions and comments from the public were addressed by the Mayor, Council and Ted Ehrenburg, Blue Shield Consulting. Comments and/or questions were presented by:

Jack Barber, 657 Reba Road:

- Questioned that since the Borough is the fastest growing town in New Jersey, why would we have no protection or protection from someone that is ten miles away?

Joe Scocco, 56 Ridgeview Lane:

- Questioned the procedure for filing a tax appeal in this town. The Mayor directed Mr. Scocco to speak with our Tax Assessor Jack Marchione.
- Questioned the recent tax increase and stated it has no reflection to pay for police services.

Richard Schumm, 55 Ridgeview Lane:

- Asked if the police services were shared, how much money would be saved and where does the Council intend to use that money.

Matt Nolan, 144 Ridgeview Lane:

- Mr. Nolan voiced his concerns and questions about police response time, stating that the Mayor cannot be sure that response time will remain as it is with our own department.
- Mr. Nolan feels that there is an internal management problem/labor problem that has gotten out of hand.
- Mr. Nolan would like to see a report on police activity.

John Longtime, 16 Hover Drive:

- Mr. Longtime stated that he appreciates the fact that the Mayor is looking into ways to save residents money but is concerned about accountability.
- Mr. Longtime asked if Council has defined the point at which savings make sense to go one way or the other.

The Mayor read an email from Mr. Rush, 81 Bertrand Island Road into the record, indicating support for the study. (The email is attached hereto.)

Maria Cacko, 130 A Schmitz Terrace:

- Ms. Cacko stated she understood the money issue but asked if the Mayor and Council are going to guarantee our safety.

Bill Cacko, 130 A Schmitz Terrace:

- Mr. Cacko is a retired police officer from Newark and stated that with regard to Califon, they had 2 police officers, no coverage on weekends and no coverage on holidays so therefore of course they were happy with a shared service; they were glad to see anybody.
- Mr. Cacko asked that when study is done, will there be an aerial study regarding response time.
- Mr. Cacko stated he wants to know if our officers will be able to stay or will they be optioned to retire.

Rob Slockbower, 224 Howard Boulevard:

- Mr. Slockbower stated that the Mayor cannot guarantee police services will not go down, that we will have policemen here, that response time won't be hurt; cannot guarantee anything, even after the study is finished.
- Mr. Slockbower stated that if town we contract with has budget crisis in 2 years and they cut back their police force, we will lose anyway.
- Mr. Slockbower spoke about his son's accident on June 21st on Howard Boulevard; he does not know if speed was an issue regarding this accident but if the speed limit between Pub 199 and the school on Howard Boulevard were lower, his son may have had time to get out of the way of the vehicle and the vehicle may have had time to stop. Mr. Slockbower is hoping to see more policemen more frequently in that area. Mr. Slockbower offered to follow up with the Mayor's suggestion of contacting Steve Hammond, Morris County Engineering, and Chief Peterson. Mr. Slockbower submitted a petition of 45 names of residents wishing to reduce the speed limit on Howard Boulevard.

Jack Barber, 657 Reba Road:

- Mr. Barber inquired if any new liquor licenses can be purchased in town, due to increase in population. The Clerk stated that the new licenses are restricted by population but would do research and respond to Mr. Barber.

Heather Reinhardt, 614 Stanley Place:

- Ms. Reinhardt stated that we spend \$1.3 million for our police department but how much is reflected our taxes; if we were to put 3 new officers on the force, how much will it cost us.

Pat Fisioso, 8 Ridgeview Lane:

- Mr. Fisioso thanked the Mount Arlington Police Department for their assistance with his wife's recent emergency and feels it is very important to have the department here with such short response time.

Alma Rios, 355 Howard Boulevard:

- Ms. Rios asked why can't we keep our police, why do they have to start from zero.

John Mellott, 122 Ridgeview Lane:

- Mr. Mellot asked how many studies has Mr. Ehrenburg performed and how many times did he recommend that the local police department be maintained.
- Mr. Mellot asked how much taxes would be raised for a new officer.

Lee Pappas, 11 Richard Drive West:

- Ms. Pappas asked when was the last time Council hired a new police officer.
- Ms. Pappas stated that two things impact people in a community, if they close a school or take away their police.
- Ms. Pappas stated that the town taxes used to cover sewers, we now pay for that; taxes used to cover garbage collection, we pay for that and our water bills are high.
- Ms. Pappas asked if Council would put this issue to a referendum and let the people in this town vote on whether or not they want their taxes to go up in order to support the police; maybe the residents do not want to be motivated by money.

Shannon McDonald, 5 Chestnut Street:

- Ms. McDonald asked why the residents can't vote on this, as taxpayers who voted for the Mayor and Council, if they are willing to pay the extra salary it will cost for more police; as a community, we feel very safe and close with our police.

Ed Merola, 47 West Bertrand Road:

- Mr. Merola stated that our officers have been great; these are people who took careers and jobs and he is not sure how their morale can work right now thinking they might lose their positions. Mr. Merola stated that we need a quick conclusion and that all residents want to be involved in that process.

Joe Keltos, 551 Eric Lane:

- Mr. Keltos asked if the study implemented for safety reasons or financial reasons, and if the Borough has a safety problem right now.
- Mr. Keltos asked if there is an emergency fund that can be tapped into to resolve these problems in the interim.
- Mr. Keltos asked if the additional overtime satisfied the FOP in the interim and how many years have we had only one officer on the shift that raised the safety concern.
- Mr. Keltos asked how could the public find out what the grievance was that led to the original safety concern; after all these years, what led to the conclusion that all of a sudden there was an unsafe condition.
- Mr. Keltos asked that specifically with Wharton and Mine Hill, due to the similarity in size, is there a situation where they both had one officer on an overnight shift that raised this safety concern; and if the officer from Mine Hill had to go to Wharton, does that now leave Mine Hill unprotected and would we be in the same situation.
- Mr. Keltos asked that in the case of mergers that have gone through, as recommended by Mr. Ehrenburg, did the town that was researching the shared services, such as Mount Arlington, have a lower or higher tax rate than the town they received service from. Mr. Keltos questioned that if we go with a shared service with a municipality that has higher costs, how would that benefit us from the financial standpoint.

Fran Conover, Schmitz Terrace:

- Ms. Conover stated that the Mayor needed her vote when he ran for office and it was her right to vote for him; she would like that same right when it comes having a referendum regarding the Police Department.

Mr. Lamphier, 665 Henmar Drive:

- Mr. Lamphier stated that there is irony with our signs to support our armed forces overseas because we don't seem to be supporting those in our own community; it seems that the decision has already been made.
- Mr. Lamphier stated that everyone is concerned with safety; our police department has given us loyalty, commitment and pride, and that is what should be considered when deciding the best for Mount Arlington.

Paula Danchuk, 50 Elizabeth Way:

- Ms. Danchuk stated that the Council should have held an information meeting with the public sooner which would have lessened the emotion and provided more facts; the Council met with the police officers, but not with the residents.
- Ms. Danchuk stated that she has been before Council many times regarding the possibility of open space and the Mayor had told her to get a referendum on the voting ballot with a petition of signatures. Ms. Danchuk asked if that be done for the police question also.
- Ms. Danchuk asked if there be a public meeting when the study is complete.
- Ms. Danchuk asked if Mine Hill renegotiated their contract money-wise or did they just add years to it.

Dick Schumm, 55 Ridgeview Lane:

- Mr. Schumm stated that they do not have the final topping on their driveways which is a hazardous condition; when will the Borough go after the bonds and why not now. The Mayor stated that new investors should be starting on the unfinished items of their 13 new properties by mid-September.

- Mr. Schumm asked when our right to go after the performance bonds expires and how much time are we going to give them before we go after the bonds. Nancy Gage stated that the bonds do not expire as long as there are still outstanding issues. The Mayor would like to wait until September 1st to see where they stand and has been in contact with the new developers. Council agreed that a date should be set as to when we will initiate Council expenditure to go after exactly what is due; Council agreed to October 1, 2007.

Chris Kelly, 52 Summit Avenue:

- Mr. Kelly stated that he appreciates the work of the Council and offered another possible solution: since our children go to Roxbury High School and due to the fact that we don't have adequate police coverage at night, maybe we can get shared services with Roxbury Police for one night with one officer.

Resident (did not give name)

- The resident stated the Mr. Ehrenburg mentioned 2 or 3 towns where he recommended they actually keep their current department and asked when was this done last and why what were the factors leading to that decision/recommendation.

Motion to Take a Five Minute Break: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

12. Executive Session

2007-105 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Conference of the Mayor and Borough Council with the Public Excluded.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Nancy Gage stated that for the record, she must confirm with Councilwoman Mulligan, due to attendance by speaker phone, that no one else can hear the Executive Session discussion; Councilwoman Mulligan confirmed no one could hear the session.

Motion to Go Back into Open Session: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Council discussed their letter to all residents regarding the police study and discussed holding a special public meeting after the study is complete.

13. Resolutions

2007-106 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated August 13, 2007.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

Council discussion on the cost for the annual firemen's convention; Councilman Stone will provide further information to the Council.

Roll Call: Mulligan – No, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-107 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Confirming Receipt and Review of the Annual Report of Audit for 2006.

Motion to Approve: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-108 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Rejecting All Bids for the Howard Boulevard Pedestrian Walkway and Drainage Improvements Project.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-109 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing The Receipt of Bids. (Howard Boulevard Pedestrian Walkway and Drainage Improvements Project – second bidding)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-110 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Submission of a NJDOT Resolution, Application and Agreement for State Aid to Municipalities for the Year 2008 for the Hopatcong Avenue Roadway Reconstruction Project.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-111 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting State Legislation to Amend Abbott-Burke Funding.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

2007-112 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing an Agreement Between the Lake Hopatcong Commission and the Borough of Mount Arlington.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

- 2007-113** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Awarding Contract for Combination Backhoe – Loader with Diesel Engine and Associated Equipment.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

- 2007-114** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, To Cancel Future Property Taxes Due to 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption Approval Block 58.02, Lot 47.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

- 2007-115** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting New Policy Regarding Family Visitation of Borough Employees.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

14. Ordinances – Introduction

***Added at Council Meeting:**

- 17-07** Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Purchase of a Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle for the Fire Chief and Appropriating \$25,000 for the Financing Thereof.

The Mayor read Ordinance 17-07 by Title.

Motion: Councilwoman Cerasoli stated that Ordinance 17-07 be introduced by Title and passed on First Reading and that a meeting be held on September 10, 2007 at 7:00 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: Council President Driscoll.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll.

Motion Approved.

15. Ordinances – Second Reading

None.

16. Motions

None.

The Clerk referred to the Communications Packet of July 27, 2007, a resolution from Mount Olive opposing Bill #3959 which proposes to extend polling hours from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and requested Council's permission to oppose this Bill; Council requested the Clerk prepare this resolution for the next Council Meeting.

17. Mayor's Report

- The Mayor referred to the Communications Packet of July 27, 2007, #9, regarding a proposal by Governor Corzine to sell the right to future toll road revenue to Wall Street investors; Council did not wish to support this proposal.

- Councilwoman Mulligan stated that recently she was asked if she would be attending the NJLM Convention but thought Council was going to forego paying for the convention to save money; she stated that she was not aware of any change to that decision.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session: Councilman Sorge.
Second: Councilman Doran.
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.
Motion Approved.

Attorney Nancy Gage left the meeting and did not attend this Executive Session.

Motion to Return to Open Session: Councilman Doran.
Second: Councilman Sorge.
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.
Motion Approved.

18. Borough Administrator's Report

None.

19. Adjourn

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

Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved At Council Meeting of September 24, 2007.

**PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF
COUNCILWOMAN
MAUREEN CERASOLI**

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli has devoted countless hours toward the planning, creation and grand opening of the new Mount Arlington Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to publicly extend their gratitude and deepest appreciation to Councilwoman Cerasoli for her continued attentiveness to the needs of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council consider it an honor and privilege to award this Proclamation to Councilwoman Cerasoli for her dedication, commitment and devotion to the Borough of Mount Arlington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington that they wish to honor, recognize and express their deepest gratitude to Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli for her most appreciated efforts toward the opening of the new Public Library Building.

**Arthur R. Ondish, Mayor
August 13, 2007**

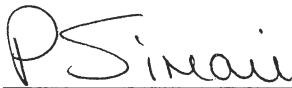
BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

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 June 2007

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>
\$ 9,114.83	SOLID WASTE RECEIPTS	190-0353-097
\$ 62,740.06	SEWER RECEIPTS	190-0356-097
\$ 34,066.99	WATER RECEIPTS	190-0354-097
\$ 105,921.88	GRAND TOTAL	
\$ 3,394.00	(TRUST ACCT) SEWER CONNECTION FEE INSTALLMENT PLAN RECEIPTS	
\$ 0.00	WATER REPAIR RECEIPTS	



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

UTILITY RECEIPT REPORT FOR

MONTH OF July 2007

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>
\$ 13,485.77	SOLID WASTE RECEIPTS	190-0353-097
\$ 117,116.44	SEWER RECEIPTS	190-0356-097
\$ 26,406.65	WATER RECEIPTS	190-0354-097
\$ 157,008.86	GRAND TOTAL	
\$ 0.00	(TRUST ACCT) SEWER CONNECTION FEE INSTALLMENT PLAN RECEIPTS	
\$ 0.00	WATER REPAIR RECEIPTS	

P. Simari

Patricia E. Simari, CTC

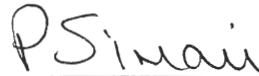
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To the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Mt. Arlington:
I hereby submit my report of receipts & disbursements for

The Month of June 2007

Dated July 9, 2007



Patricia E. Simari, CTC

Collections:

Current Taxes (5-01-17-001-001)	\$ <u>80,516.20</u>
<u>2006</u> Taxes (5-01-17-001-002)	\$ <u>22,946.25</u>
<u>2006</u> Taxes (Collected at Tax Sale)	\$ <u>13,617.13</u>
Future Taxes (5-01-17-001-004)	
Munic. Red. (5-01-17-004-001)	
Interest & Costs (501-08-112-000)	\$ <u>4,719.46</u>
Interest & Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	\$ <u>1,755.90</u>
Return Ck. Fee (5-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Searches (5-01-08-105-010)	
Duplicate Bills (5-01-16-500-021)	
3 rd Party Red. (5-01-17-004-002)	\$ <u>2,582.46</u>
3 rd Party Red. Int./Subs (5-01-17-004-003)	\$ <u>69.73</u>
Misc. <u>Copies</u> (5-01-16-500-021)	\$ <u>107.50</u>
Tax Sale Costs (5-01-17-001-005)	\$ <u>1,976.59</u>
Tax Sale Premiums	
6% Delinq. Pen. (5-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Paid Certification	
Total Receipts	\$ <u>128,291.22</u>

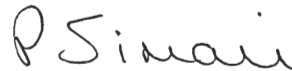
BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

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

The Month of July 2007

Dated August 1, 2007



Patricia E. Simari, CTC

Collections:

Current Taxes (5-01-17-001-001)	\$ <u>656,685.57</u>
_____ Taxes (5-01-17-001-002)	
_____ Taxes (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Future Taxes (5-01-17-001-004)	\$ <u>4,621.57</u>
Municipal Redemption (5-01-17-004-001)	
Interest & Costs (501-08-112-000)	\$ <u>1,205.18</u>
Interest & Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Return Ck. Fee (5-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Searches (5-01-08-105-010)	
Duplicate Bills (5-01-16-500-021)	
3 rd Party Red. (5-01-17-004-002)	\$ <u>1,677.75</u>
3 rd Party Red. Int./Subs (5-01-17-004-003)	\$ <u>90.86</u>
Misc. Copies (5-01-16-500-021)	\$ <u>56.75</u>
Tax Sale Costs (5-01-17-001-005)	
Tax Sale Premiums	
6% Delinquent Penalty (5-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Paid Certification	
Total Receipts	\$ <u>664,337.68</u>

Boro of Mt. Arlington
Finance Office

Finance Report

May 2007

Current Balance 4-07	203,215.00
Current Receipts 5-07	3,852,404.20
Disbursements 5-07	3,868,803.20
Total Available	186,816.00

Boro of Mt. Arlington
Finance Office

Finance Report

June 2007

Current Balance 5-07	186,816.00
Current Receipts 6-07	1,516,532.89
Disbursements 6-07	1,519,586.89
Total Available	183,762.00

Boro of Mt. Arlington
Finance Office

Finance Report

July 2007

Current Balance 6-07	183,762.00
Current Receipts 7-07	1,869,885.78
Disbursements 7-07	1,564,602.78
Total Available	489,045.00

From: Art Ondish
Date: 8/7/2007 11:29:32 PM
To:
Subject: Re: Mt. Arlington Police Force

Hello Ms.

I appreciate your feedback. You can be assured that we will never let the level of service that we now enjoy ever be diminished, not even for a minute. The FOP came to us in March citing safety issues for the police and the residents. The Chief was not involved in this it was the FOP. They said they were putting the town on notice that they were unsafe. Well, there is nothing that concerns the Council and myself more than the safety of our employees and the residents. We decided to look into contract services as a way to address this safety issue. They demanded more officers be added to our force. There is just so much money that can be added to a budget before it breaks. The Police costs are the lions share of our budget. We can't just keep adding officers at today's costs. Each officer is an additional 100k. That is 2-3 tax points. This isn't just something that can be done without considerable consideration for the taxpayers. I certainly can not afford to see my taxes take that large a hike. I am getting much grief about this year's increase. I can't imagine the uproar if we added this additional cost. Maybe in the end we will but we have to look at all options and do our due diligence. That is what I took an oath to do as well as the Council.

We are proceeding with a study to see what kind of service is out there. We would never accept anything less than what we have now. Did you read in the paper last week that our costs for the PE public employee pension system, is going to go up, for Mount Arlington, over 100k next year due to state being in financial crisis. This is going to be put onto the tax payers. If we added additional employees, that cost would go up as well. This will be ongoing and only get worse. This is not an easy fix.

As far as the response time, that will not change. Even if we were to go with another agency, we have a new police station that would be manned so we would have the same or better response time to even that we enjoy now. If we were to choose to go with another agency, I am sure they will need additional officers so our guys may be employed to do the same patrols they do now.

MINE HILL and Wharton went through this a few years ago. Every officer was kept in employment, or chose to work elsewhere, and they enjoyed an increase in salaries of 10-15k a year. There were no lawsuits over that agreement and the residents have never been so happy with the coverage. Mine Hill has not had a municipal tax increase since that agreement took place, that is 6 years running. Wharton is also enjoying a surplus each and every year.

I hope you realize we didn't just wake up one day and say "gee we want to get rid of our police". The FOP came to us and put us on notice, we had to take action when it comes to the safety of this Borough. We will wait until the study is complete, look at all the facts, then make a decision as to what is best for Mount Arlington. I have the utmost respect for our officers and the jobs they do. I commend them each and every chance I get. I am sure you will be seeing this happen in every town in the very near future. Every town will be facing budgeting crisis in the very near future. We were just pushed into moving ahead faster due to our FOP putting us on notice. That was a very serious thing

bring to our attention especially against the advise of their own Chief.

We will be mailing a letter, shortly, to all the residents giving a brief explanation as to what we are doing and why we are doing it. We issued a press release when this first began but I don't think everyone understood the situation we were faced with. Unfortunately there is much misinformation being circulated, not by the Mayor and Council, and it is a shame. We met with the entire MAPD, in an open and honest way, prior to signing the contract for this study and let them know exactly what we were doing and why. They know the facts but are playing on the sympathy of the misinformed residents : I think that is really a low blow.

Thanks again, if you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to call me on my cell phone 202-787-6538. I would be glad to answer any other questions you may have.

Mayor Ondish

-----Original Message-----

From:

Date: 8/7/2007 10:39:43 PM

To: aro34@optonline.net

Subject: Mt. Arlington Police Force

Dear