

Grayzel Remarks

Township Committee Meeting

4/18/2012

Thank you to Mr. Mancuso, Mr. Caffrey, Mr. Quinn, Ms. Pardo for all their hard work putting together our budget this year. Thanks also to our department heads who had another tough year to deal with in putting together their departmental budgets.

I would like to commend our various Emergency Services groups who conducted an “open house” of sorts this past Saturday at Emergency Services Day. Various vehicles and equipment were on display for the public to see. My family got a particularly nice tour of the Minutemen’s ambulance and of the “Mrs. B” relief bus.

At last month’s meeting I commented about the effort by several Mayors across the state of NJ for the restoration of funding diverted from Energy Taxes that is supposed to be for local use but has been improperly taken by the State of NJ for use in the State budget. The statutes provide for the distribution of all but a fraction of the energy taxes back to local governments, but the State of NJ is taking well in excess of their share. This has put significant pressure on many municipal budgets over the past years. Restoration of these funds back to Morris Township would lower all of our property taxes. On tonight’s agenda we had a resolution in support of the effort to return the energy taxes back to the municipalities. I think Mayor Mancuso for heading my request and putting the resolution on our agenda tonight. I urge our local residents to speak to our State Legislative representatives – Assemblyman Bucco, Assemblyman Carroll, and Senator Bucco – and urge them to support the restoration of these property tax relief funds for local purposes.

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority is holding a HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & COMPUTER/T.V. DROP-OFF EVENT on Saturday, May 12 from 9am - 2pm. This particular event will be held at Morris County Public Safety Training Academy located at 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany, NJ which is located just across the border from Morris Township. If you have questions you can call the MCMUA (973) 631-5109 or visit their website at www.MCMUA.com

On April 29 there will be a 5k run/walk benefiting the Got 2B Safe! Program. Every day, more than 2,100 U.S. children are reported missing and thousands more are exposed to dangerous situations. Got 2B Safe! is an abduction prevention program for elementary school students that teaches children potentially life-saving lessons. Got 2B Safe! Works to keep our communities safer - one child, one teacher, one family at a time. The event will be held on the campus of Honeywell International at 101 Columbia Road. Please come out and support this charity – and for anyone interested in seeing the Honeywell campus up close it is also good opportunity for that as well. For more information visit the race website at www.5k.got2BSafe.com

Lastly, a resident asked me about our sign ordinance and specifically what limitation there are for homeowners putting signs on their front lawns. I would like to ask Mr. Mills (our municipal attorney) to apprise the public of our sign ordinance and comment on it as he sees fit.

Thank you.