

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2013, 6:00 PM**

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE & FLAG SALUTE

2. STATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipal Clerk read the Statement of Public Notice:

This meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Asbury Park Press on October 22, 2013; published on October 24, 2013; in addition a copy of notice is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. ROLL CALL:

	Cradle	Handshy	Murray	Reevey	Sykes	Williams	Champagne
Present	x	x		x	x	x	x
Absent			x				

4. RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Cradle asked to table Resolutions 2013-217, 218, and 219 to table.

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Table		Cradle	x			
	x	Handshy	x			
		Murray				x
		Reevey		x		
		Sykes		x		
		Williams		x		

Councilman Handshy stated he doesn't see the need for the Special Meeting, asked who called for it and for what purpose. He further stated these resolutions should be handled at the next meeting, with the coordination of the CFO and the Police Chief.

Mayor Champagne stated this is a security issue with the need for additional police shift coverage. The proposal of the chief to promote individuals is essential to making sure the police are adequately staffed for the safety of residents. The delay of this would cause a security breach, and does not want this delay under this watch, and therefore the process should be sped up. This meeting is an opportunity for the CFO to provide justification on the effect on the budget. This will present a cost-benefit analysis.

Councilman Cradle expressed concern that the police has been without a lieutenant since June and wants to know the rush. He stated that a cost-benefit analysis cannot be done in 5 minutes. He would like an opportunity to take time and make a decision at a later date. Councilman Handshy stated he does not feel this is not an emergency situation and would like additional time to make a decision since the presented material has conflicting figures.

Councilman Reevey stated this meeting was called due to time limitations.

Councilman Cradle expressed appreciation for the Chief and the Police, however does not feel the need to make a decision this meeting.

Councilman Williams stated that two new police officers were hired, they don't have a supervisor, and the police and town could be placed in jeopardy.

The Mayor asked Chief Izatt to speak on the presented promotions, since he is best qualified explain the budget, logic and need for the promotions.

Chief Izatt stated that the 2 provisional are hired temporarily. The police test is held in litigation. They are provisional pending the test results. In order for the Police Department to be certified, there is a need for additional supervisors. The Chief currently works as a supervisor. The officers first step states when they are appointed after the test, there is a full year before any promotions to be provided. There is a savings in money for this. He had a question as to why these were paid from the police line item. The Chief states he is in

budget, do not remove funds to paid other over-expenditures, and this will allow the Police to pay for these promotions. He referred to an August 27, 2013 printout from the CFO, stating Court time was \$4,569.30, overtime is \$22,505.20, police special is \$20,750,. Other expenses in surplus for impound. He stated special pay dropped considerably. He stated he is consistently under budget, and if funds are kept in the police budget, this in in the municipal budget. He further explained that provisions must work a full year at full-time before being considered for a raise.

A resident asked if these new hires are provisional. The Chief confirmed the new hires are provisional but was different than what is being considered which were the promotions.

Councilman Handshy asked for clarification on police misc., there is a 149% presented.

Councilman Cradle expressed concern because of the discrepancies in cost. He would like a complete, accurate report.

Chief Izatt stated all reports and presented financial information was provided by the CFO.

The CFO stated the presented material is a snapshot and doesn't take into account end of year, long-term aspects such as payouts, holiday pay and other departmental over expenditures. He estimates approximately \$2,000 being available for the end of year. The effect of the promotions will cost an approximate \$16,000.

Councilman Reevey asked the CFO if Chief Izatt is correct, and that these promotions would be in his budget. Mr. Gallagher stated that it would cost approximately 2 to \$3,000 for the rest of this year. And we will have enough in this year's budget to pay for this. He further stated that the promotions would cost \$16,000.00 next year.

Councilman Handshy confirmed with the CFO that promotions would result in approximately a .6 tax increase in next year's budget

Councilman Reevey requested the postponement of the promotions to provide a greater inquiry of all available funds since concurrently the Borough has provided upgrades and maintenance for several buildings in the Borough. He further suggested this topic be considered at the next Council Caucus meeting.

The Mayor confirmed with Chief Izatt that these promotions would provide necessary coverage, instead of paying overtime to supervisors when there aren't enough supervisors.

Chief Izatt stated that a retirement in the police force will also add to savings.

Mr. Gallagher stated the Borough will also have to pay for retirement benefits.

Councilman Cradle questioned why the meeting was called instead of waiting until next meeting. He requested additional information before voting on the proposed promotions.

Councilman Reevey asked Chief Izatt why the meeting was called early. Chief Izatt stated his concern that he was looking out for the future, and the sooner the better for the safety of the town.

Councilman Williams expressed his experience being on-call for many years. It takes a toll on supervisors who are on-call. Its not an easy job to do. There is a need for an additional supervisor

Solicitor Tarver suggested a change in the presented Agenda to allow Public Comment.

Upon unanimous consent, Mayor Champagne opened up the Public Comment portion of the Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Rolzhausen, 420 Applegat Ave – doesn't feel there is enough information and additional time is needed for a better informed decision.

Michelle McNulty, 113 Dittmar Dr. noticed differences in presented information and to take a step back. The Borough has been without supervisors. The Council should vote the right way on all correctly presented information. This promotion is coming out of taxpayer money and therefore the council should wait. If the police deserve it and there budget looks good, then go for it.

Barbara Englehart, 105 Dittmar Dr. asked why information wasn't presented to council beforehand. This should've been looked at beforehand and with more time.

Solicitor Tarver noted that Council must discuss this decision at Council meetings due to Open Public Meetings Act. The reason for this meeting was to discuss the police budgets and promotions relating thereto.

Sandy Ross asked Chief Izatt if the promotions are an immediate need. Chief Izatt stated supervisors are needed, he is unsure of what can happen in the future, and would like this implemented as quick as possible.

Patricia Tobin 421 Applegate Avenue, asked MR. Cradle on his thoughts. Councilman Cradle stated he doesn't glance at numbers. He doesn't question what Chief Izatt needs, he questions the conclusive numbers.

Councilman Handshy stated he spoke with Chief Izatt and the CFO to obtain the status of the budget. He understands a potential loss in municipal revenue in next year's budget. He feels there are conflicting numbers on payout and promotion rates.

Ms. Tobin stated expressed to the council they should wait due to conflicting rates. She can't afford taxes going up and they should wait to ensure all council members have enough time to review the financial information.

Tom Rolzhausen stated that if promotions are the way to proceed, he requests everyone to be on the same page.

Solicitor Tarver noted that Council must discuss this decision at Council meetings due to Open Public Meetings Act. The reason for this meeting was to discuss the police budgets and promotions relating thereto. Council cannot meet on their own.

Mayor Champagne thanked the public for participating in this discussion. He further stated the following resolutions would continue to be tabled until the next Council Caucus meeting.

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Table		Cradle	x			
	x	Handshy	x			
		Murray				x
		Reevey	x			
		Sykes		x		
		Williams		x		

Resolution 2013-217 Resolution Approving the promotion of South Toms River Patrolman Frank Polozzo to Provisional Sergeant

Resolution 2013-218 Resolution Approving the promotion of South Toms River Detective Timothy Meier to Provisional Sergeant

Resolution 2013-219 Resolution Approving the promotion of South Toms River Patrolman William Kosh to Detective

Councilman Reevey asked the CFO, that given all of the upgrades in the Municipal Building, will this relieve the need for hiring any other employees?

Mr Gallagher stated that these improvements will allow workers to be more effective but will not replace people or their duties.

6. ADJOURNMENT at 7:15 p.m
Respectfully submitted by Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved

Joseph M. Champagne, Mayor

Joseph A. Kostecki, Acting Municipal Clerk