

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING of the WOODBURY CITY
BOARD OF EDUCATION and CITY COUNCIL
August 23, 2011
7:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Mr. Frank Gwalthney, School Board President in the Woodbury Jr.-Sr. High School Library
 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: OPMA statement read by City Clerk Roy A Duffield for City Council, and by Board Secretary Kara Huber for BOE.
 3. ROLL CALL

Present for City Council: Council President Pro Tempore William Fleming, Council Members Patrick Pottillo, Thomas Louis, Heather Tierney, Harry Trout, Francis Connor.

Absent: Council President Sloane, Mayor Harry R Riskie, Councilwomen Danielle Carter & Gwen Brown.

Present for BOE: President Frank Gwalthney, Members Anthony Chiesa, Jerry Lonabaugh, Ted Johnson, Eliza White, William Toole.

Absent: Abbott, Dennen, Garlic

Other officials present: BOE Secretary Kara Huber, City Clerk/Tax Assessor Roy A Duffield, City Administrator Karl J Kinkler, City CFO/Deputy Administrator Robert Law
 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mr. Gwalthney.
 5. BOE MISSION STATEMENT was read by Mr. Gwalthney.
- A. The meeting continued with a discussion of Services/Facilities/Finances that are currently shared by the two bodies:
1. Athletic complex green acres financing: Mr. Law gave a re-cap of State Green Acres funding in the City, including the new HS athletic stadium. He suggested we apply for more Green acres grants in the range of \$500,000. These grants require 50% matching funds.
 2. Athletic field maintenance and equipment sharing: Mrs. Huber & Mr. Jones cited examples of equipment sharing, tree trimming, regular collaboration between City Parks & Rec Director and BOE Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, use of HS athletic fields and buildings by the public.
 3. School Resource Police Officer: this is a benefit to the school children and ultimately to the City. The officer is paid by the City.
 4. Other examples of shared services, including pickup of recycling and gasoline purchasing.
 5. Shared Services with Other Entities:

The BOE gave examples including: the County College holding ESL classes at the High School, sharing of special needs instructors with other school districts, busing, joint purchasing of utilities & supplies, and health insurance. The City listed Joint Insurance Fund, Health Insurance Trust, Interlocal Construction Code Enforcement, joint purchasing contracts.

B. Next discussed was Potential Future Sharing of Services/Facilities/Finances

1. School funding update and court decision: Mr. Jones discussed the State funding formula and the State's failure to fund the school according to its own formula, and the financial difficulty that has resulted from it. Our school district is underfunded by approximately \$4.5 million, according to State's formula.
2. City funding update: Mr. Law discussed our collection rate, the 2 ½% caps on levies and appropriations, loss of ratables, reductions in state aid, skyrocketing pension and insurance costs. Mr. Fleming noted that the City has slowed the rate of tax increases, and that the Police and Public Works Departments comprise about 70% of the City's budget.
3. Facilities needs – school and city. Both bodies agreed that building maintenance (e.g. repointing of masonry and possibly roof repairs/replacements) are costs that might be shared. Mr. Johnson stated that City DPW and school maintenance dept. should continue to work together and inquired whether the school's athletic teams could use the City's soccer fields. Mr. Chiesa suggested having City's heavy equipment (loaders, etc) available to the school when needed. A discussion took place regarding the use of various athletic fields & parks throughout the City and the need for extensive & costly repairs to Francis Ave. ballfields. It was noted that Chuck Alter is trained in turf management & could possibly assist the City. Mr. Jones mentioned that artificial turf playing surfaces hold up better under constant use and require less maintenance in the long run.
4. Technology Support: it was suggested that the BOE's tech support person could possibly evaluate & assist with the City's technology needs.
5. Business Office Support: the possibility exists for sharing or combining the administering of our payroll, personnel, and health benefits.
6. Custodial/Maintenance Support: for lawn care, the BOE hires an outside contractor (except for care of the athletic fields). The City uses public works personnel. The City has an outside contractor for custodial services, where the BOE uses in-house personnel. These are areas of possible collaboration.
7. Pedestrian Issues: Mr, Chiesa brought up the issues of pedestrian safety & carpool circulation at the Evergreen School. Mr. Jones offered to discuss it again with the Police Chief. Mr. Fleming mentioned the City has an ARRA grant for

wayfinding & lighted crosswalks. The bodies also discussed curb & sidewalk improvements.

8. City PILOTs: a lengthy discussion was held regarding the use of PILOTs to spur redevelopment in the City and the cost vs. benefit of their impact on the school tax. Mr. Fleming pointed out that two of our largest PILOTs, Woodbury Mews and Lakeside Apartments, place no (or very few) children in our public schools.
 9. City Redevelopment Plan and Downtown: Mr. Fleming stated that much time, money & effort went into the redevelopment plan. Mr. Lonabaugh stated that the BOE is in support of the plan. City officials noted the recent appointment of Ronda Abbruzzese as our Economic Development Director. The BOE mentioned that they've tried to purchase products & foods from local merchants with varying success.
 10. Library Possibilities: Mr. Chiesa began the discussion of the challenges to merge the school library with the public library. Such challenges include book titles (inventory) for different clientele, proximity of the public library to the classrooms, & security concerns for students. There are many complicated issues and it was decided to ask the two librarians & Library trustees to take up the discussion & explore any possible shared services.
 11. After school programs: BOE members listed Homework Help Line, test prep for the NJASK standardized exam, YMCA after-school programs as examples.
 12. Other Items discussed include the possibility of lower water/sewer rates for the school district, since ultimately the taxpayers pay the bills. Another item mentioned was the BOE's experience with its geothermal heating/cooling system. They offered to share their expertise with the City if requested. Mrs. Tierney spoke about the City's Live Where You Work program which is being set up to offer lower-rate mortgage financing for people who work in Woodbury and buy a home here.
- C. Open Meeting to Public for Comment: Mr. Gwalthney asked for comments from members of the public. Mr. Lee Weatherby of 303 W Centre St. stated that the City and BOE should work closely together and should make a better public relations effort to let the taxpayers know when they've been able to make savings. He also stated that if an ad-hoc committee is formed it should include members of the public as well as City & BOE elected officials. In his opinion solid waste disposal should be shared. However, shared services do not work at all levels. He concluded by applauding the efforts of the two bodies and stating that every penny counts to the taxpayers.
- D. Future Follow-up: Mr. Gwalthney asked Mr. Duffield & Mrs. Huber to work together on recording the minutes of this meeting. He asked for volunteers to serve on a combined committee to continue the work that began tonight. Mr. Chiesa, Mr. Johnson, and Mrs. White from the BOE volunteered. Mrs. Tierney, Mr. Louis and Mr. Connor volunteered

for City Council. Mr. Gwalthney directed the newly formed committee to report their findings & recommendations to City Council and BOE no later than February 2012.

7. ADJOURNMENT TO END MEETING

Mr. Gwalthney adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm.

Note: no audio recording was made of this meeting