Fairness In Taxes **Meeting Minutes 2-6-15**

Board Attendance: Bill & Sheila Hartranft, Michael Hinchman, Don Kerns & Vic Staniec

Meeting opened by Michael Hinchman with Pledge Allegiance at 3:00 P.M.

Education – Vic Staniec

- Repairs to the Primary School are slated to be done. 3R Painting & Contracting has submitted a bid of \$5.6 Million to include roof, fire alarm, windows, HVAC system, etc. \$2.5 million to be covered by bond, \$2.4 million from the state and the balance with tax dollars.
- Report Card on the School System Attendance in the 2005/06 school year was 1,449; in 2013/14 it was 1,218 with 197 choice students.
- The population is 91.1% White, 3.8% Hispanic, 2.4% Black and 1.9% Asian.
- Asked if the Hispanic student # had increased he stated that High School had 3.7%, Primary School 18.5% and Middle School 11%, making the answer yes.
- SAT's High School average was 1541 and State average is 1515. Compared to other districts we are in the 68th percentile.
- Following is the performance breakdown for all three schools:

Language Arts 23rd Percentile High School 58th Percentile Math Middle School Language Arts 91st Percentile 97th Percentile Math Primary School Language Arts 100th Percentile

94th Percentile Math

- Of the total high school students, 80% have gone on to higher education; 56% in a 4-year program and 46% in a two-year program. Of these 44% have not graduated after 5 years.
- As an aside the cost of artificial turf is \$3.25 per sq. ft.

President - Michael Hinchman

- Capital Plan presented two weeks ago. \$16 million per year for 4-5 years has been budgeted, with \$8 million per year earmarked for roads and drainage. Merion Park and Peck's Beach not included.
- Michael was critical about the fact the City does not go long term on financing, with the result they could pay out more in the future with short term financing due to the current low interest rates.
- A \$.5 million study was done on the Public Safety Building, but with no due diligence. \$1.2 million per year has been slated for the downtown. Is that necessary?
- No planning regarding the Boardwalk pilings. In the section currently being re-done there are 813 pilings being replaced. He spoke with the contractor who stated that the pilings they are using have an expected life of 50 years. If they were using fiberglass coated pilings, the expected life is "forever". Again, no planning.

Flood Committee – Eric Sauder

- Eric as Chair with members, Pete Guinosso, Sheila Hartranft, Bill Hartranft & Sue Hornick.
- They have 15 homeowner contacts interested in participating.
- Feels Bert Diamond could be good resource.
- Has the engineering study which was completed in 2010.
- Is planning a meeting inviting affected and concerned residents and the press. Also, preparing flyers and considering yard signs.

Flood Committee- Eric Sauder Cont'd

- Michael Hinchman asked for a stated goal. Suggested that we gather anecdotal evidence from the
 interested/affected residents, and that those people attend Council meetings with that evidence. It should also
 be global (island-wide).
- Michael also stated it might be good for FIT to place an ad with the media highlighting the city's capital plan, and ask how they have, or have not, addressed the drainage issue tying this into the intended effort of the subcommittee.
- The committee should develop a concise plan with specific objectives and perhaps a mission statement. Gather documented information, and identify those areas where the problem may not be solvable.
- Referencing the engineering report of 2010, that 7 of 10 check valves had failed and 2 of every 10 were in poor condition. Who's maintaining them and who's is checking on that maintenance?
- It was also suggested that Cindy Nevitt of the AC Press would be an important resource.
- It was noted that Atlantic City has acquired grant money for the same situation; could Ocean City do the same?

Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.

Next meeting will be March 6, 2015. Roger McLarnon, Community Operations will be invited as guest speaker.

Respectively submitted by:

Sheila Hartranft, Secretary