

November 30, 2009

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Special Budget meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 East High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with President Toroney in the Chair.

INVOCATION

The invocation was provided by Pastor June Warren.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilors present were Mark Gibson, Maureen Allen, Stephen Toroney, Greg Berry, Jody Rhoads and David Garner. Also present were Mayor Sharon Thomas, Solicitor Charles Garner, Borough Manager Jason Bobst and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach. Councilor Wenzel was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toroney adjourned the meeting to executive session at 6:02 p.m.

RECONVENED

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Conditional Use – 715 East High Street – Motion by Councilor Gibson, seconded by Councilor Allen to approve the Conditional Use application of The Hill School regarding the conversion of an existing building located at 715 East High Street into office use for The Hill School, with conditions as stated in the order dated November 30, 2009.

President Toroney requested a roll-call vote.

Allen	yes	Gibson	yes
Berry	yes	Rhoads	yes
Garner	no	Toroney	yes

Motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 nay.

b. Agreement – Fee in Lieu of Taxes – Motion by Councilor Gibson, seconded by Councilor Allen to approve and authorize execution of an Agreement between The Hill School and the Borough of Pottstown with final form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager.

November 30, 2009

Solicitor Garner explained The Hill School's proposal to pay the Borough any real estate taxes that are payable for the property at 715 East High Street for a five year period. If the property is declared tax-exempt, The Hill School will pay to the Borough a fee in lieu of taxes for those five years.

Dan Weand, 1010 North Evans Street – questioned the status of the property after five years.

Solicitor Garner commented that there are no provisions beyond the five years. He added that the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals controls the tax status of a property.

President Toroney requested a roll-call vote.

Allen	yes	Gibson	yes
Berry	yes	Rhoads	yes
Garner	yes	Toroney	yes

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

BUDGET REVIEW

Manager Bobst reviewed the status of the budget indicating a \$1 million gap for a potential 20 % tax increase. The major factors are a new requirement in the police pension fund and the health care costs. Mr. Bobst also explained the request to the bargaining units to accept concessions in medical coverage.

The Department Directors and Supervisors made presentations defending their budgets.

No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on motion by Councilor Allen.

Submitted by,

Jason M. Bobst
Borough Manager