

REGULAR MEETING

Oceanport, New Jersey
April 1, 1993

REGULAR MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was held on April 1, 1993 at 8:02 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone, Miller, Taylor, Wolfe & Mayor Cavanagh.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Cavanagh led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the Regular Meetings held on February 18, March 4 and March 18, 1993 had been made available for review by the Governing Body, Councilman Wolfe moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by Council with the following exceptions: Councilman Terra abstained from voting on the minutes from the February 18 meeting due to absence and Councilman Miller abstained from voting on the minutes from March 4 because he was not present.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Application for membership to the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Company made by Gregory A. Widmaier.

Councilman Terra moved to approve this application. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and unanimously approved by Council.

2. Raffle applications made by the following:

- a] Jr. Auxiliary to the Monmouth Park Charity Fund and the Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on 7/4/93, 50/50 cash raffle.
- b] Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on 7/24/93, 50/50 cash raffle.
- c] Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on 7/31/93, 50/50 cash raffle.
- d] Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on 5/31/93, 50/50 cash raffle.
- e] Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on 9/3/93, 50/50 cash raffle.

The Clerk advised that all applications were found to be in order and the required fees had been paid, after which Councilwoman Filippone moved to approve said raffle applications. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and unanimously approved by Council.

3. Police report for the month of MARCH, 1993 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

Mayor Cavanagh then advised that this is the time and place for the public hearing on the 1993 Municipal Budget and opened the meeting to the public.

Joe Lyons, Serand Ave., asked if the figure for general revenue listed in the budget includes the franchise money received from Storer, to which Mr. Hulsart, Borough Auditor stated that is correct and is included in the total.

Mayor Cavanagh explained that what he has tried to do is give the public a basis for comparison so that the public might be better able to understand some of the numbers, since often times they become somewhat over powering. He had several posters regarding the budget on the board and explained that the increase in appropriations shows that in 1993 we are increasing the spending 4.8% and by law we are allowed to expend 5% more each year under the Cap Law, so our allocation is approximately \$128,000 and we are using most of that with about \$7,000 left that we did not spend so we are coming in under the Cap.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that the general revenue item shown on the board indicates what we anticipated for general revenues and what we actually received and the difference is that we have to estimate some of the numbers and sometimes the revenues do not come in at the same level and as the board shows, we had overestimated approximately \$103,000 of what we had anticipated as revenue and what that means is any money that the Borough receives in various ways. He went on to explain that the interest on investments was estimated at \$125,000 which was in line with the year before and wound up collecting only \$48,000 and what that means is that we fell short of the difference between \$125,000 and \$48,000 and what that also means is that for this budget, we cannot anticipate more than the \$48,000 we received in the previous year, so in essence it becomes a double problem when that happens.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he tried to give the public a feeling of what we have to deal with in terms of expenditures within our Cap and often times are much in excess of the 5% allowed by the law and stated as an example, the insurance increase this year includes an increase of 14.5% in health insurance coverage which increases the insurance allocation in 93 over the 5% and he wanted the public to understand that we do have control over some items but do not have control over other things.

Mayor Cavanagh commented with regard to the municipal tax rate, he has tried to give a running analysis because to look at any tax rate in one given year, is probably not a good idea so he has gone back to 1990 which is when the State authored its plan to utilize the pre-collected taxes and reduced the municipal rate down to seventeen and one half cents in 1991 and we gradually crept back up, but if you look at the projection, because we are not sure with regard to certain aid figures, etc. from the State, essentially the municipal tax rate which was 31 cents approximately, per \$100 of assessed value and we are now calculating that we will now be 32.8 cents which in essence means the municipal tax rate is approximately one penny higher than it was in 1990.

Mr. Douglas Fredericks, 238 Comanche Drive commented that when you compare the 1990 tax rate to the 1993 rate, it may show one cent, but when you compare the 1993 rate to 1992, you are looking at a 21% increase, which is a large increase.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he does not feel you can make a fair analysis using one year, to which Mr. Fredericks commented that he did not agree since that is the way people have to pay their taxes.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that if you look at 1990 and recognize that in 1991 the municipal tax rate went down fourteen cents, to which Mr. Fredericks questioned why that happened?

APRIL 1, 1993 Mayor Cavanagh explained that the State of NJ decided that we were going to take our pre-collected school taxes and take 25% of them per year and plug that into the budget as an item of revenue, which was a one time concept, because once that money is gone, it is gone forever. He continued that many of the towns such as Oceanport, had collected this money and left it there for purposes of obtaining interest and as fall back money. He further stated that the moment that was undertaken and we went down fourteen cents, he announced to the public that they could rest assured that we would have to pay that money back, somehow and that you could not count on a fourteen cent reduction staying there because sooner or later, the money we plugged in must come back into the budget.

APRIL 1, 1993 Mayor Cavanagh stated that he and the Borough Auditor, Mr. Hulsart were discussing earlier with the Borough Council the relationship to the reduction and what is going to happen in two years since it was a four year concept and the good news in this budget is that we have begun to reduce the impact from 1995 which would simply have been somewhere in the neighborhood of fourteen cents and as Mr. Hulsart explained earlier to the Governing Body, we have been able to plug back into the budget about eight of the fourteen cents that we are not using, so that the drastic fear that we had for 1995 may have been abated to some degree, to which Mr. Hulsart stated the Mayor had correctly explained the situation.

Mayor Cavanagh stated if asked why we did this, he would have to explain that we did not do this, and our budget was in Trenton waiting to be adopted, when the State Legislature did this, because if he were asked about this, he would have asked to do this at a much slower rate so there would not be any type of rate shock.

Mr. Fredericks stated the bottom line is that the rate went up 21.03% and the actual taxes from municipal expenditures went up 20.9%, to which Mayor Cavanagh explained that this has to happen when your surplus goes down, the tax rate must go up in order to balance the money and there will always be a correlation there.

Mr. Fredericks asked if there are unexpended funds left over from the 1992 budget, why can't they be applied to the 1993 budget to lessen the impact of this rather significant increase, to which Mayor Cavanagh explained under the law, that money will be re-deposited, but not this year, but next year because at the end of the year we transfer and pay out money for the first three months for bills from the previous year that continue to come in and after March, whatever is left, by law, that money is re-deposited not in the 1993 revenue, but into the 1994 budget.

Mr. Fredericks asked what happened then to the monies from 1991 in surplus that could have been added to the 1993 budget and asked how much was left over and how much has been applied, to which the Mayor stated all of it goes into surplus and is used in the budget, which is by law. He also explained that to help out we have cancelled some appropriations

where we thought we were safe and cancelled \$140,000 from appropriations and used them this year, but also explained again that you cannot cancel everything because you are paying bills from the previous year for the first three months of the new year.

Mayor Cavanagh stated his overall philosophy in this case is that there is no free lunch and when they gave us that fourteen cents, he stated that night, that we are going to have to find that money and put it back and if you look at the numbers he has on the board and take that money away, the interest income two years ago, we generated \$205,000 in interest income when we had all of the pre-collected money. He stated you can see that we now only have \$48,000 which is a combination of interest rates coming down and taking away the money we had available to invest.

Mr. Fredericks stated that if you are making that much in income from investments, that means that you are collecting too much to begin with.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that we had collected this money a long time ago and it remained there for many years.

Mr. Hulsart explained to Mr. Fredericks that this money is school money and not municipal funds and went on to explain that the municipality collects the levy for the county, schools and everyone else and pays them their money so they are the collection agency so this represents school money and by an act of the Legislature, they decided that they were going to create what he calls, false surplus, because basically if you stopped operations tomorrow, you would owe the school the money and you do not have it because it has been used and it is an item that must be paid back. Mr. Hulsart pointed out as the Mayor had stated earlier, when they gave it to you four years ago, at the end of the four years, you must put the fourteen cents back in the budget, because you have been using this for school taxes and suddenly it is no longer there.

Mayor Cavanagh stated to Mr. Fredericks that he makes a good point for the Mayor because his position in 1991 was that no one who saves the fourteen cents in 1991 is going to be thrilled to give it back in 1995. He stated in his opinion, the bottom line would be if someone asked him if he could give the next three years with a one cent tax increase on the municipal rate, he would like to be able to give that to the residents, but if he was asked to make a promise for that, he could not. He stated if that theory were used we could all settle and be happy to say that three years from now if the rate is up one penny, we would be happy.

Mrs. Laurel Vollers, Pemberton Avenue asked if the budget was set in stone or can it be changed at this point, to which the Mayor asked what exactly was it that she wanted to question.

Mrs. Vollers commented that it is a very large increase and 20% is an extremely large amount of money and she understood what the Mayor had just explained, but questioned if there is any way to lower this amount.

Mayor Cavanagh stated there are two things we can do to lower the budget, one being we can cut things out of the budget and we would have to remove \$43,000 to equal one penny, but \$43,000 is a lot of money and the only other thing that we could do might be to defer and put back the eight cents and then in two years give you a fourteen cent increase, which he did not think would be appreciated by anyone, to which Mrs. Vollers commented that fourteen cents would be better than twenty cents this year.

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Mrs. Vollers asked if when she receives her new tax bill, it is going to be 20% higher than last year's, to which Mayor Cavanagh explained that the municipal tax rate is only one portion of your tax bill and we are approximately 17-18 cents of the tax dollar or 16-17% of your tax dollar, so what we go up is only important if you add it to what the other rate increases are. Mayor Cavanagh commented that our understanding from the schools is that the local school is up a penny and a half and the high school is flat and the County does not know till the summer, but it looks like a penny or two and then it must be equalized and if you add it all up you are probably looking at a nine cent increase so the best way is to use the dime that we have up there and it works out to about 5% which is your total tax rate increase.

Mr. Fredericks questioned the fact that it costs approximately \$92,000 from the budget insert on page 2 which covers the Assessor and Tax Collector's Office and questioned how many properties are in town that the Tax Department has to concern itself with, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated that you are probably looking at between 1800-1900 hundred homes that we are dealing with.

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Mr. Fredericks stated that on the \$92,000 that can be picked up out of the budget, it costs roughly \$50 per property to collect taxes and felt that seems to be rather excessive and the Mayor had asked earlier where he could find a penny, he suggested the Mayor start in the Tax Office.

Mayor Cavanagh asked what Mr. Fredericks would suggest he do, since some of those people in the positions he is speaking of are mandated to have by law. Mayor Cavanagh stated both the Collector and the Assessor are statutory employees.

Mr. Fredericks again reiterated that with a population of 6,100 people and only 1,850 properties, that the Department has to take care of, the cost of \$50 per property is quite excessive to just collect the taxes and keep accounts.

Mayor Cavanagh pointed out to Mr. Fredericks that the Assessor's Office and the Tax Collector's Office are two entirely different departments, to which Mr. Fredericks asked if the two departments can be combined, to which the Mayor stated that cannot be done under the law.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that all he is suggesting to Mr. Fredericks is that the law requires we have a Tax Assessor and a Tax Collector and it requires certain things that must be done in each department.

Mr. Fredericks then questioned the amount of office personnel, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated we certainly do not have a large number of office personnel and in the Tax Office, there is a Tax Collector and an Assistant and in the Assessor's Office you have the Assessor and two Deputies, and the Assessment Clerk's position has been taken away in 1993.

Mayor Cavanagh again stated that the Assessor and the two Deputies, who make approximately \$50 per week and are in the Borough Hall one night per week and go out on inspections, are mandated by law. Mayor Cavanagh invited Mr. Fredericks to come to the Borough Hall during the day and walk around and you will see that there is not a lot of personnel in the building and if someone is out sick, 20% of the work force is missing.

Mr. Fredericks suggested that perhaps the Council should address the Legislature and request that the Legislation that requires all of that should be changed, because when you take that \$50 per dwelling, and if there are other municipalities our size that are having the same problem, and all having to pay \$50 per dwelling, they should consider to share these positions, because it is a lot of money.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that one of the things he has stressed over the last ten years or more that he has been on the dais, is there is no justification for not having a State Mandate/State Pay requirement in Trenton to address exactly what Mr. Fredericks is speaking about. He continued that in his opinion, if the State of NJ feels that it is necessary to impose obligations on a municipality to tell us how to do things and what we must do, then as he has said many times before, they must be made to pay for those directives because if the people who are telling you what has to be done, if they know they have to find the funding, it may act as a bit of a check on their desire to tell us what to do. APRIL 1, 1993

Mayor Cavanagh pointed out that at the last Two River Council of Mayors meeting he spoke to Senator Bennett publicly and said to him that we have been trying to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot, which would be real tax reform because if we could make the Legislature responsible not to pass any mandates they do not pay for, we would be amazed at how many fewer things you would see coming out of Trenton. APRIL 1, 1993

Mr. Fredericks commented that there is precedent for this type of Legislation in the State of Maine and when they mandate something for either the County or Towns, they have to pay for the programs, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated he is aware of approximately a dozen States that have that requirement.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that there must be a constitutional amendment before this can happen and he has been told by Senator Bennett that he is hopeful that this will be on the November ballot and he feels strongly that this is one amendment that will pass overwhelmingly, if we can get it on the ballot. Mayor Cavanagh stated that we also have certain employees that by State Statute, must receive certain pay increases, whether we feel it is appropriate or not, because the Statutes that deal with their Department make that directive.

Mrs. Fredericks questioned why some employees received 6.5% and other received more than that percentage?

Mayor Cavanagh stated that some people who are new here might have received a salary which was different from the prior employee, and as an example mentioned the Tax Collector who previously was part time in essence and she left and we hired a new Tax Collector at a substantially higher salary than the 6.5% increase because we were not able to fill the position for the lower amount and she also has four other positions that she takes care of during the course of the working day.

Mrs. Fredericks asked if the 6.5% increase would be given every year, to which the Mayor stated no and explained that we go over this every year and last year the Municipal Employees received 5% and we do it differently every year and it depends on inflation, available money, etc.

Mayor Cavanagh stated in terms of the amount of the salary increases, is one of the things we have always done here is that we have so few people working here, and we have taken the position of not having an Administrator and did away with that position and divided those responsibilities to other people. He continued that we have kept our employee number to a very low level and you cannot do that and refuse to give them any kind of responsible increase and then say do more work and take on more responsibility. He stated for a town our size, we most likely employ less people than any other town around and in the Administrative Offices we only have five full time people.

APRIL 1, 1993 Councilman Clark commented that these five people have several jobs and not just one responsibility.

Councilman Miller stated that we have one of the smallest Public Works Departments and Police Departments around.

Mr. Lyons stated that he has a problem with the Borough when they send out tax billings and between that time and the next billing, raise the taxes, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated what happens is the first half of the year is generally estimated before the new tax rate is struck and explained that we cannot strike a tax rate for sure, until the County comes through some time in late May or early June, to which the Auditor agreed was correct.

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Mr. Lyons stated he may have not made his point clear because the impact is that it takes his mortgage company by surprise and he instantly receives a delinquent notice and in about 2 weeks he receives another one and his mortgage company is out of State and takes a while for them to catch up and he spends a lot of time on the phone with both his mortgage company and the Borough Tax Office and his main concern is that he will turn up as a bad credit risk.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he is surprised at this comment because most everyone has a mortgage and what generally happens is that every town in New Jersey strikes a tax rate at the same time and what his experience has been and others that he has talked to, is that your mortgage company will audit your escrow account every Fall because they know it is going to change.

Mr. Lyons stated he was advised that a revised bill gets sent to the mortgage company, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated was correct. Mr. Lyons then commented that it seems to him that the time between sending the bill out and the delinquent notice is not time enough for the mortgage company to get things straightened out.

Mr. Margalotti, Borough Attorney, stated that Mr. Lyons may be referring to last year, which was an unusual situation created not by the Borough, but created by the State because the State was two-three months late in arriving at the State Aid figures which caused all of the municipalities in the State to be delayed in determining the final tax rate, to the extent that each town was handling this situation differently. He explained that some towns came up with an estimated 3rd quarter amount and asked people to pay on that basis, other towns who were not able to send out tax bills in July for the August 1 collection, advised their residents not to pay their 3rd quarter taxes and to wait until they received the actual bills, which came out in September.

Mr. Lyons stated he felt there needs to be more time between the time the Borough determines what the taxes are and the time that delinquent notices are sent out.

Mr. Margalotti commented that delinquent notices do not go out until after the due date on the taxes and the rate is generally established in June, the final bills are printed the end of June, early July and mailed out in July and the taxes are due August 1 and it was felt that most of Mr. Lyons problems were due to the unusual circumstances last year.

Mr. Vollers, Pemberton Avenue questioned the amount of the dumping fees and felt that this number was quite high and questioned why it was so high and if it was because there were so few places to dump?

Mayor Cavanagh stated that the rates are set and we have nothing to do with the rates, to which Mr. Vollers asked if recycling affects the dumping fee amount?

Mayor Cavanagh stated the present contract is calculated on many variables and we are using residents numbers from many years ago and we have sat down and gone over the numbers and Councilman Wolfe had contacted other municipalities to try and come up with numbers to see where we are and when we calculated it out, we felt that the number was in line, but the cost is something that we have no control over.

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Mr. Vollers asked what the number would be if we were not recycling since it might possibly approach half a million dollars, to which the Mayor commented might be close, since we received a very large bill for the dumping of only the storm debris.

Mr. Vollers also asked if anyone has considered using a per bag of garbage charge, to which the Mayor stated we have discussed this on a number of times and quite recently discussed it again. Mr. Vollers stated he raised this idea because he only needs to dispose of one bag of garbage a week, although he understands that there are only three people in his home and no children and he does try and recycle as much as possible.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that we had discussed per bag garbage, but it presents a lot of problems and Belmar tried it last year and it became a real problem and although we are not ruling it out, we are not ready to change over to this system.

Mayor Cavanagh advised that when we priced the garbage contract with one pick up instead of two, the savings were absolutely not worth the aggravation because if was a minimal savings of approximately \$5,000 per year.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that before we go out to bid on the next garbage contract, we are going to hire someone to come in and assess all the things that we have spoken about tonight and reflect them against the numbers we have in our current contract and tell us which way is more financially advantageous to the Borough before we bid the contract.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that if he is reading the Freeholders correctly, we are going to see another rate increase in the dumping fees in 1995 and hopefully it will not be like the one they gave us some five or six years ago, which tripled the rate over three years. He continued that we must remember as well, that when we want an environmentally sound dumping ground, there are all sorts of requirements about what must be done under the ground, around the landfill, etc. which is very costly.

Mr. Vollers asked then if it would be true that less garbage would mean less dumping fees, to which the Mayor stated yes and commented that recycling is economic and environmental and as we do better in recycling more and more, it will translate itself into dollars and Oceanport has always been a leader in the field of recycling.

Mr. Vollers asked why we are not recycling cardboard to which Mayor Cavanagh stated we did recycle cardboard in the beginning of our program.

APRIL 1, 1993 Councilman Terra stated we had instituted a cardboard recycling program in the beginning, and it was incredibly successful, but unfortunately the cardboard was contaminated, it was extremely messy and we had a lot of people from out of town using it and we just had to stop that portion of the program.

Councilman Taylor wanted to comment that he has just completed the recycling numbers for 1992 and Oceanport recycled 4,098.3 tons this year, which is bottles, cans, paper, scrap and leaves, etc.

Mr. Lyons asked how much more room and ability do we have for increasing our recycling beyond what has been discussed this evening.

APRIL 1, 1993 Mayor Cavanagh stated that we will begin expanding the items we recycle and the next one will most likely be grass clippings, which take up a lot of room at the landfill.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard on the 1993 Municipal Budget for 1993, Mayor Cavanagh closed the hearing.

R-93-28 The Clerk read resolution R-93-28 adopting the 1993 Municipal Budget after which Councilman Clark moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and unanimously approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN CLARK: Councilman Clark advised that he will be attending a mandatory recycling municipal work shop on Wednesday, April 7 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon and if anyone would like to attend with him, just contact him prior to that date.

ORD.
#631

COUNCILMAN TERRA: Councilman Terra called for the second reading of an ordinance on the 1993 salaries and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO FIX AND DETERMINE THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICIALS" PASSED AND APPROVED ON MARCH 16, 1939.

Mayor Cavanagh opened the meeting to the public for any questions on this subject only.

As no one from the public wished to be heard on this subject, Councilman Terra moved to close the public hearing on same. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Terra moved to adopt this ordinance on second and final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Clark.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone,
Miller, Taylor and Wolfe.
NAYS: NONE.
ABSENT: NONE.
ABSTAIN: NONE.

Councilman Terra then called for the second reading and public hearing of the vehicle and traffic ordinance and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY. ORD. #632

Mayor Cavanagh opened the meeting to the public for any comments on this subject only.

As no one from the public wished to be heard on this subject, Councilman Terra moved to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Terra then moved to adopt this ordinance on second and final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor.

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The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone,
Miller, Taylor and Wolfe.
NAYS: NONE.
ABSENT: NONE.
ABSTAIN: NONE.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone advised that the first meeting for the Memorial Day Parade was held and we will be having a second one on April 26, 1993 at 7:30 P.M. and anyone interested is invited to attend. She also wanted to encourage other towns to participate with our parade and stated that with our Veterans ceremony in November, we had several groups come in from other towns because their towns do not put on the ceremonies that we do, so she wanted any groups out there to know they are welcome to join in with our Memorial Day Parade and they should contact either herself or Councilman Clark or Cliff Hepburn.

Councilwoman Filippone reminded the residents that we will be conducting the annual health screening on Saturday, April 24, 1993 and pre-registration is required on April 21 from 3:30-5:00 P.M. and 7:00-8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall. She explained that this year in addition to the regular Smack 23 blood test, urinalysis, hemmocult and cholesterol testing, we are offering two prostate tests for cancer screening for men forty years of age and older and the regular test will be \$25 and the prostrate testing will be an additional \$35 and they must participate in the regular health screening and the prostate test is also a blood test, which is a much reduced cost for these tests.

Councilwoman Filippone explained that this is done so cheaply because all of our screening is done by the National Health Labs and they are a certified laboratory and the reason we can do it so inexpensively is because it is all volunteer and the only people who are paid are the National Health Lab technicians.

Councilwoman Filippone said farewell to Cindy Meier who has been our reporter from the Atlanticville for several years and she has been very faithful to Oceanport and very kind and fair to us all and she wished her well in her new job.

APRIL 1, 1993 COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller commented that last evening, he, Richard Gruskus, Chairman of the Water Watch Committee and Councilman Taylor attended an environmental roundtable meeting at the Hominy Hill Golf Course and it was sponsored by the Monmouth County Environmental Council and they are an advisory group to the Monmouth County Planning Board. He continued that there are only 3 Environmental Councils in the State of New Jersey and Monmouth County has one of them and last night's meeting was to kick off the process of a regional planning and communications activity.

APRIL 1, 1993 Councilman Miller explained that since 1990 the people in the Environmental Council have been putting together a way to divide the County into 9 environmental regions and Oceanport has been placed into the North Coast Region and the regions were basically chosen to approximate river areas, stream areas, lake areas, areas of similar geographic characteristics and other towns in our region are Long Branch, Rumson, Little Silver, Shrewsbury, Sea Bright, Tinton Falls, Eatontown, Monmouth Beach, West Long Branch, Fair Haven, Red Bank and Shrewsbury Township. He continued that each of the groups had a main speaker who talked about a particular project that was being done in that area and he spoke about our Oceanport Water Watch Program and it was quite edifying because we had people come from other regions to listen to what our program is all about.

Councilman Miller stated what we are trying to do is get some communication going between communities and this is the first step with the help of the County in getting similar communities together to discuss their problems and concerns. He stated that after his presentation, they talked about those areas of priorities and some of the items discussed were how to educate the public with regard to environmental concerns as well as where to obtain funding for these projects and the non-point source pollution water quality testing which has now been found to be very important from an upstream to a downstream and explained if you take Parker's Creek and Oceanport Creek, Parkers Creek goes all the way back into Shrewsbury and Tinton Falls and the tributaries eventually affect Oceanport and the same is true with the Oceanport Creek, which goes up into Little Silver, so what happens in Little Silver, affects Oceanport.

Councilman Miller advised that there will be another meeting of the Navesink Group because this is another area that he feels should be a joint project with the Shrewsbury and really become one project instead of separate projects. He stated that there will be another large meeting in June to see where we have come and he felt this is a big step in getting local municipalities to speak to one another.

R-93-29 Councilman Miller asked the Clerk to read resolution R-93-29 granting an easement to the NJ American Water Company, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and unanimously approved by Council.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR: Councilman Taylor reported on March 23 he attended a BABES Program over at the Wolfhill School in which Monmouth County Drug Council presented this program, which is a puppet character that teaches esteem and self image to the 2nd and 3rd Graders. He stated that since he is in charge of the Drug Alliance, he wanted to see what was actually involved and he was very impressed with the Elsa who was the presentator from the County. He informed everyone that he went into a first year class and in the beginning the children acted silly about the puppets, but during the 45 minute presentation, they became involved and got into the program. He also attended the next session which was a second year class and the recall from the students was outstanding in knowing the puppet characters, questions and answers, etc. and he felt this is an excellent 1993 program that we have backed and received funding from the County to participate in.

Councilman Taylor stated with this particular program we will be sponsoring a poster contest emphasizing the BABES Program and since April is Alcohol Awareness Month, we are undertaking the contest this month.

Councilman Taylor reported that 100 students from Wolfhill attended Center State Hospital in a program sponsored by the Drug Alliance and he received a thank you note from the 4th Grade Teachers, Mrs. DeMarco, Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Palumbo who commented that the program was excellent and they were very appreciative of the funding making this program possible. He was very pleased about the results of this program in creating an awareness about drugs and alcohol.

Councilman Taylor noted that April 17 will be Rodeo Day which is Bicycle Safety Day in Oceanport and it is sponsored by the Oceanport Police Department and the Drug Alliance will also be at Rodeo Day giving away tee shirts designed by the Maple Place Students and silk screened by the Shore Regional High School students. He also advised that they will be showing a video at the Rodeo Day called The Cat Who Drank Too Much.

Councilman Taylor reported that he has received a coloring book from Garden State Paper to be given to the school children at Wolfhill School which emphasizes recycling in the home, which will create an awareness about recycling.

Councilman Taylor stated he has received a notice that we will be receiving for our 1991 recycling efforts \$5,570.95 and we had received a bonus and will be helping to offset some needed equipment and related salary expenses, etc. He expects a bit larger check in 1992.

Councilman Taylor congratulated Councilman Miller for being the Moderator last evening at the Environmental Council round table and he did an excellent job.

Councilman Taylor thanked Cindy Meier for all her help.

Councilman Taylor asked the Clerk to read resolution R-93-30 authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary agreement for the Drug Alliance grant, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council. R-93-30

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe wanted to announce that the spring leaf pick up has begun and he asked residents to rake the leaves to the curb with no sticks, branches or wood mixed in the piles and advised that the leaf pick up will end on Friday, April 30, 1993 so please get the leaves out to the curb prior to the cut off date.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh read a proclamation proclaiming April as Alcohol Awareness Month, after which he commented that if anyone needed a cogent reminder of the problem of drinking, the accident involving the death of the two Cleveland Indian pitchers and the injury to the third, where alcohol was involved.

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Mayor Cavanagh wished Cindy Meier well with her new job with a new paper that does not cover Oceanport and he commented that it has been a pleasure having her with us.

Mayor Cavanagh opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

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Stu Briskey, 43 Manitto Place wanted to thank Monmouth County Radio and the Middletown Police for their help when the Chief's car broke down recently and commented that Monmouth County Radio is a top notch outfit, very courteous and very responsive and he felt there would be no problems when 911 comes into being.

Mr. Briskey also wanted to thank all the members of the Oceanport Fire Department for the many hours of stand by that has gone on during the last several months with all the storms. He also wished to remind the Mayor and Council for the record, that their generator is still not working, which supplies the fuel for all the emergency vehicles.

Councilman Wolfe advised that the filters were just received from the distributor and these are special items for that unit and came from Little Falls and he has scheduled the installation of the new fuel tank and the unit should be up and running this weekend.

Mr. Joseph Lyons, Serand Ave., commented that recently during the Storer Presentation, there was some discussion about better coverage through coordinating programs and he received a letter from the General Manager asking him to find someone to be the contact persons for such matters and following a discussion with Councilman Miller, he submitted his name in writing to them. He wanted to know if there was anything coming up soon or in the near future that they would like him to make Storer aware of for possible coverage?

Mayor Cavanagh stated that the Health Screening might be a good start and suggested that Mr. Lyons keep in touch with Councilman Terra so that when he receives articles for the Bulletin of up coming events, he can let Mr. Lyons know and he will then be able to pass them along to Storer.

Mayor Cavanagh also commented that the Council is appreciative of Mr. Lyons volunteering for this position.

Mr. Al Weigel, 248 Arnold Ave. commented on January 1, 1993 a statement was made that cans, bottles and plastics could be put out for pick up together and did not have to be separated and he wanted to know if this was true?

Councilman Taylor advised that we are keeping the plastics separate and Councilman Clark commented that the statement was made by the outgoing Recycling Coordinator and after several discussions in work shop meetings with regard to the way the recycling items are collected, it was rescinded.

Mr. Vollers commented that when the recycling is brought to the drop off sites, they do not keep it separated, but Mayor Cavanagh stated we have done this since the beginning with the main idea being if it is changed down the road, we will not have to re-educate the public.

Councilman Terra also added that in the beginning we were getting more money for the recyclables if they were separated and we felt that even though that has changed, we would keep it the same.

Councilman Clark stated one of the main reasons we have kept it the same is the manner in which we collect it because we do not have any of the specialized equipment and getting it out of the trucks into the bins would be very difficult and time consuming.

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Mrs. Vollers stated she was of the understanding that the money from the Health Screening goes to the First Aid Squad and wanted to know if that is correct?

Councilwoman Filippone advised that any monies left over from the costs involved with the screening is donated to the First Aid Squad and last year is was approximately \$1,000.

Mrs. Vollers also wanted to point out that considering that the Two Rivers Times covers Oceanport, they can take public notices now since they are over two years in operation.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Cavanagh closed the meeting to the public.

Councilman Clark moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated April 1, 1993. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Wolfe who abstained from voting on the vouchers due A & H Truck Parts and William Haggerty & Son. TOTAL 1992 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$3,923.00. TOTAL 1993 VOUCHERS \$800,047.75. TOTAL 1993 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$51,648.46. TOTAL 1993 OPERATING FUND \$851,696.21. TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT \$975,000.00. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$2,190.61. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$237.80. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT \$66.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-OCEANPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION \$685,506.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-REDEMPTION \$2,038.91. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-FIRE PREVENTION \$26.00. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 9:18 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

At 10:00 P.M. Mayor Cavanagh reconvened the meeting and stated for the record everyone was present on the dais.

Councilman Terra moved to approve the hiring of Mr. Richard Conte as our Borough Dispatcher starting at Salary Level III, which is \$20,531 annually, effective immediately. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

APRIL 1, 1993 At 10:01 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on April 15, 1993 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Varca

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK

APRIL 1, 1993

APRIL 1, 1993