

GLEN ROCK BOROUGH
Town Hall Meeting (Public Hearing)
November 14, 2012

Present:	Council Members:	Rollin Apgar Lucy Cadwallader Eugene Delahanty Richard Shiles Carleen Warner Benjamin Wetzel Doug Young
	Solicitor:	Michelle Pokrifka
	Secretary:	Ann Merrick
	Visitors:	Twenty-two visitors

The Public Hearing was Called to Order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President R. Shiles.
(Attached is documentation of the presentation from R. Shiles).

Chief James Boddington attended the meeting, addressed the residents and Council and answered questions.

The Public Hearing Closed at 7:55 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann E. Merrick
Secretary/Treasurer

**Glen Rock Borough Public
Hearing**

14 November 2012

Purpose

To determine the desirability and practicability of remaining a member of the Southern

Regional Police Commission with police

services provided by the Southern Regional

Police Department.

WHY?

- **No projected growth within the Borough**
- Changes in Real Estate values and declining Real Estate taxes
- Antiquated/deteriorating Infrastructure
- Increased costs for police services

Changes in Real Estate*/Transfer Taxes

	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13
• Budgeted*	\$317,000	320,305	320,305	320,305	323,717	322,000
• Received	\$285,400	303,899	305,427	307,276	313,000	?
• Difference	-31,600	-16,406	-14,878	-13,029	-10,717	(96,930)
• Budgeted	\$60,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000	15,000
• Received	30,000	25,000	26,000	20,000	18,400	?
• Difference	-30,000	-5,000	-4,000	-10,000	-1,600	(53,600)
Total difference since 2007						(\$150,530)

*Budgeted amount is based on appraised property value (\$109,054,660 on 11/7/12)

A decrease in value of \$686,620 from 9/29/11

Infrastructure Cost 2012/2013

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Borough's Share</u>
School Street	\$232,850	\$232,850
Municipal Parking Lot	240,000	106,000
Church Street	374,000	141,000
Neuhaus Building	??	0/??
Codorous Creek	??	0

Note: Does not include Cottage Avenue or Water Street projects

Change in SRPD Budget

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$226,820	\$227,350	\$234,976	\$242,000	\$250,000

Police services will cost 42% of the total

2013 discretionary budget

Discussion Pertaining to the Continuation of Police Services

- Southern Regional Police Department represents Glen Rock, New Freedom and Shrewsbury Boroughs with service provided to Railroad Borough and Loganville on a cost basis.
- In accordance with the Municipal Contract, a borough wishing to withdraw from the contract must hold a public meeting and issue its letter of intent not later than 31 December for the year following the current year, i.e., Dec 2012 for fiscal year 2014.

Option 1

- Terminate Municipal Contract and rely on PA State Police coverage
- Pros: Coverage provided at no cost - saving \$250,000 for 2014
- Cons: SP coverage for criminal offenses and traffic accidents only
 - No coverage for enforcement of Borough ordinances
 - No coverage for traffic enforcement
 - Reduced response time if committed on I-83
 - Borough loses its share of the equity in the SRPD assets
 - H.B. 1500, if passed, would charge for services at a rate in excess of \$152 per capita (current SRPD rate is approximately \$117)

Option 2

- Terminate Municipal Contract and purchase services
- Pros: Borough determines amount of services desired
e.g.: \$15,000 per month (\$180,000) with \$20,000 for special coverage (Carolers, etc)
- Cons: Borough loses voice on Police Commission
Borough loses its share of the equity in the SRPD assets
Borough would be responsible for total cost of services during a catastrophic event vs. being shared by all members
Commission may elect not to sell us services

Option 3

- Terminate the Municipal Contract and establish a local police department
- The cost for this option would be prohibitive
 - 16x7 coverage would require a minimum of 4 officers
 - 24x7 coverage would require a minimum of 6 officers
 - Purchase of vehicles, radios and other equipment
 - Agreement for use of a holding cell if required

Option 4

- Do Nothing – *See Option 5*
- Glen Rock Borough has been receiving excellent service since 2010
- SRPD is working on developing additional service contracts that *could* maintain, if not lower, future costs

Impact of Letter of Withdraw

- ❖ The Borough's actions may force the other municipalities to take a similar action resulting in the loss of all police services in 2014
- ❖ Borough may withdraw its letter of intent if costs stabilize in 2013
- ❖ We may, or may not, be able to buy our way back into the system at a later date.

Option 5

- Increase the Glen Rock Borough Property Tax Rate to a level that will sustain the Borough for 2013/2014.
- This would require a projected .5 mil increase from the current 2.95 mills per \$100,000 to a rate of 3.45 mills.
- This increased millage rate would include a .1 mil Fire Tax for the support of the Glen Rock Hose and Ladder and the Glen Rock Ambulance Club.

Impact of Real Estate Tax Increase

• House Value	2012	2013	Change
\$100,000	\$295	\$345	\$50
\$200,000	\$590	\$690	\$100
\$300,000	\$885	\$1,035	\$150
\$400,000	\$1,180	\$1,380	\$200
\$500,000	\$1,475	\$1,725	\$250