



Borough of Rocky Hill New Jersey

URGENT NOTICE “Town Hall” Meeting Thursday March 13th at 7PM

Dear Resident,

Mayor
Edward P. Zimmerman

Council President
James Banks

Council Members
Linda Goldman
Brian Griner
William Hallman
Julia Hasser
Courtney White

Chief Financial Officer
G. Ross Bobal

Tax Collector
Donna Griffiths

Assessor
George Sopko

Engineer
Neil I. Van Cleef

Borough Magistrate
Eric Perkins

Borough Clerk
Donna Griffiths

Deputy Borough Clerk
Raymond E. Whitlock, Jr.

Borough Attorney
Albert E. Cruz

Prosecutor
Raymond J. Stine

On Tuesday, February 26, Governor Corzine sent shock waves through New Jersey when he announced that he is proposing the cutting of all municipal aid to municipalities that have a population under 5000 residents as a way to force municipal mergers and do away with towns like Rocky Hill.

Initially this meant a cut in aid to Rocky Hill of \$115,000. In 2007 the Borough collected just over \$400,000 in municipal property tax. As you can see, to make up the difference would require a *DRASTIC INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES*. However, given that last year the Governor pushed through legislation capping the amount property taxes can increase at 4%, we are faced with *DRAMATIC SERVICE CUTS* instead. The decision to cut our aid was based on nothing else other than our population size and his desire to fold us back into Montgomery Township and to do away with the Borough. The reaction from your Mayor and Council as well as from other towns our size has been overwhelmingly negative. I am sure you have seen the newspaper and television reports about this subject and how we think it is unfair and wrong for Rocky Hill.

On Tuesday, March 4th, the state released new numbers showing that our reduction in aid had been lowered to \$42,000. While an improvement, this would still cause major hardship for the Borough.

On Thursday, March 6, Council President Jim Banks and I attended a meeting with 400 representatives of other affected towns and members of the Governor's staff. During that meeting, we started to see some signs of flexibility on this issue. We need to keep the pressure on as it is making a difference.

While the Borough Council and I are working closely with the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors to reinstate our aid to the full \$115,000 and to save the home rule of Rocky Hill, WE NEED YOUR HELP. We need to hear your ideas and suggestions. We need for you to contact your state representatives. To that end we will be holding a “Town Hall” meeting on Thursday March 13th at 7PM at Borough Hall. This will be an informal meeting that will allow us to share with you what we have learned so far and let you share with us your thoughts and suggestions. Please make the time to attend. We need your help and the long term survival of our community depends on it.

Respectfully,

Ed

Edward P. Zimmerman - Mayor

All bills and communications should be sent to

Donna Griffiths – Borough Clerk
P.O. Box 188, New Jersey 08553-0188
Tel: (609) 924-7445
FAX: (609) 924-2274