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cc: Admin

May 10, 2010

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. S458, if signed into law, would remove the municipality's responsibility for assessing real property within the corporate bounds, collection of property taxes, health services and animal control services; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities within the county will inherit additional costs shifted to them from other municipalities within the same county, particularly costs pertaining to the defense of tax appeals and

WHEREAS, the legislation calls for the decision to be made on a county by county referendum and calls for the Commissioner of Community Affairs and the Director of the Division of Taxation to develop a comprehensive Master Plan to phase out these municipal offices and transfer them to the county within two years; and

WHEREAS, S458 directs that the plan shall effectuate long range cost savings through the consolidation of these functions with NO empirical data or factual studies showing a transfer of these functions to a county authority will in any way reduce property taxes or improve the delivery of service of these functions; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization, and Consolidation Commission (LUARCC) was approved by the legislature and established on March 15, 2007 as part of P. L. 2007, c.54 as part of the 2007 Property Tax Relief Act for the purpose of recommending legislative changes which would encourage the more efficient operation of local government; and

WHEREAS, LUARCC, in the Executive Summary of the same, 2009 Report, acknowledges that it will expand its focus to include the efficiency in services delivery and the methods used in the assessment and collection of taxes; and

WHEREAS, legislation was passed and signed into law last year authorizing a \$7,500,000.00 pilot program in Gloucester County to study, through the process of the pilot, the cost/benefits of county wide tax assessment; and

WHEREAS, the law establishing the Gloucester County pilot program for county wide tax assessment requires LUARCC to evaluate the program; and

WHEREAS, S458, if signed into law, would usurp both the function of the LUARCC, which the legislature created in 2007 and the \$7,500,000.00 pilot program in Gloucester County, which the legislature created in 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Boonton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Boonton acknowledges the \$7,500,000.00 pilot program in Gloucester County, which the legislature created in 2009 to test the viability of County Assessing; and

2. The Township Committee of the Township of Boonton acknowledges the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization, and Consolidation Commission (LUARCC) established by the legislature in 2007, which, is specifically charged with the responsibility to evaluate the pilot program in Gloucester County; and
3. The Township Committee of the Township of Boonton memorializes its vigorous opposition to the pending legislation known as S458; and
4. The Municipal Clerk is instructed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, Senator Anthony Bucco, Assemblyman James Carroll, Assemblyman Anthony Bucco, Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, The New Jersey League of Municipalities, the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey (TCTANJ), the New Jersey Association of County Tax Boards (NCACTB) and the Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey (AMANJ) and all municipalities in Morris County.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Boonton, at its meeting held on May 10, 2010.



Barbara Shepard, Municipal Clerk
Township of Boonton