

## NESHAMINY

## No pay increases for tax collectors

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Due to the worsening economy, there will be no pay increases for the tax collectors in Neshaminy School District, the school board decided Tuesday night.

After a motion to approve up to 2 and 3 percent increases over the next four years failed to get a majority vote, board members voted 5-0-3 on a revised motion to give a 0 percent increase to the district's six tax collectors until 2013.

Board members Frank Koziol, Susan Cummings and Richard Eccles voted against the first motion and William O'Connor abstained. He, William Spitz and Joseph Blasch abstained for the second vote. Irene Boyle was not present for the meeting.

So, instead of costing the district up to \$110,649 by 2013, Neshaminy's total price tag for tax collection will remain \$102,555 for the next four years, said business administrator Joseph Paradise.

Broken down by town that's \$4,630 for Hulmeville; \$4,684 for Langhorne; \$4,630 for Langhorne Manor; \$26,201 for Lower Southampton; \$55,551 for Middletown, and \$6,559 for Penndel.

The tax collectors in Neshaminy are: Kathleen Nicastro for Hulmeville, Ellyn Schoen for Langhorne, Denise Reid for Langhorne Manor, Jennifer Yori for Lower Southampton, Thomas Kearns for Middletown and Janet Myers for Penndel.

"We're in for the worst economy, so for us to even consider increases at this point and time is not prudent financial management in this district," said Eccles, who suggested amending the motion. "It's an injustice to the taxpayers."

Before the board voted on Eccles's revised motion, Spitz said he thought setting a 0 percent increase for the first year set a good precedent and believed the remaining increases to be reasonable.

At that point during the meeting, Webb also pointed out that the district would be helping self-employed people, especially in small towns, cover expenses.

A few residents commended the board's final decision not to increase the tax collectors' annual salaries.

Neshaminy and other taxing authorities, including municipalities and the county, must set the tax collectors' salaries every four years. Their deadline is Feb. 15, Paradise said.