

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 27, 2009

7:30 PM MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 770 COOPERTOWN ROAD., DELANCO, NJ 08075

ROLL CALL: Devinney, present; Hinkle, present; Jass, present; Templeton, present; Fitzpatrick, present

Also Present: Mr. Schwab, Acting Twp. Administrator; Mrs. Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Robert Stewart, Twp. Auditor

FLAG SALUTE

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

Please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act in the following manner. Written notice has been mailed to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post and published in the January 5, 2009 editions. Written notice has been posted on the official bulletin board of the Township of Delanco at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mayor Fitzpatrick opened the meeting to the public.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Since there were no comments or questions from the public, Mayor Fitzpatrick closed the meeting to the public.

2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Mr. Schwab reviewed the key appropriation issues from his email of April 27:

- Sewerage Authority debt payment - \$70,000
- Salary Increases - \$16,000
- Recreation OE - \$10,000
- Life Insurance Premium for Retired Employee - ~\$14,000

Mr. Schwab reviewed the key budget revenue and appropriation line items.

The Committee reviewed and made reductions to various budget appropriation line items. The budget would now reflect a 5.2 cent increase on the tax rate.

The Committee discussed proposed salary increases for non-contractual employees.

Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed that salary increases for the non-contractual employees should be cut from the budget given the state of the economy.

Mr. Templeton expressed that increases should be given this year as budgeted.

Mr. Devinney also agreed that increases should be given.

Mrs. Jass expressed that the 2% raises need to be cut from the budget.

Mrs. Hinkle agreed that the raises should be cut.

The Committee discussed the debt payment amount to the Sewerage Authority that should be included in the budget. The Committee agreed to pay 1 year principal amount and the required interest due to date. It was noted that the payment for the Green Acres grant award has not been received by the township yet. Mr. Schwab will send a letter to the Sewerage Authority regarding the debt payment.

The budget would now reflect a 3.7 cent increase on the tax rate.

The Township Committee discussed the salary adjustment amount for the Tax Assessor's position and if an appropriation is needed any costs associated with the 2010 census.

The majority of the Township Committee agreed to eliminate the 2% raises for the non-contractual employees from the budget. The tax rate increase would now be 3.4 cents.

Mr. Stewart, Township Auditor, noted that he was comfortable with the Committee using an additional \$35,000 from surplus in anticipation of receiving the money for the Zurbrugg Waterfront Green Acres grant award in 2009. This would allow the tax increase to be at 3 cents and still provide for the 2% raises for the employees. Only \$17,500 additional from surplus would need to be used to be at 3 cents if the 2% raises are not given.

The majority of the Committee expressed that the raises should still not be given with the economic conditions that exist.

The Committee continued with a discussion regarding the administrative costs of providing gas and diesel fuel to other entities and if the amount charged was sufficient. More information will be gathered and review on the matter.

The Township Administrator and Township Auditor recommended that the 2009 municipal budget be introduced at the May 4th meeting if there were no further reduction/changes that the Township Committee wanted to consider.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. Hinkle to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Devinney, yes; Hinkle, yes; Jass, yes; Templeton, yes; Fitzpatrick, yes

Janice M. Lohr, RMC
Municipal Clerk
4/27/2009