

April 25, 2022  
Municipal Building  
121 Evergreen Road  
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Bowen. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Workshop.

**STATEMENT:** "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was advertised for publication in the Trenton Times and the Asbury Park Press and posted on the bulletin board."

**THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:**

In the Meeting Room:

COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO MAYOR BOWEN  
CLERK WITHAM

Committeeman Calabrese and Deputy Mayor Marinari were excused.

CFO Madden, Deputy CFO Gower, and Chief Meroney were also present.

The meeting was opened with the flag salute and a moment of silence.

Mayor Bowen said the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a Budget Workshop. The second reading of the budget and public comment will be on May 5, 2022.

Bowen introduced CFO Madden to speak about the budget.

Madden said she will start with a basic introduction of how the budget process is started, then she and Gower will review questions from Committeemen Cuozzo and Calabrese, and then they will go through the debt service.

The budget process for 2022 began in October 2021. There have been numerous finance committee meetings and three workshops, counting tonight's. She spoke about changes made to the budget, which were emailed to the committee members. Questions were submitted by Cuozzo to the finance department and responded to by the finance department. The budget was introduced on April 7, 2022.

Madden went through the packets provided to the committee members. Madden and Gower went over the answers to the questions submitted by Cuozzo and Calabrese.

The committee thanked Madden and Gower for their presentation.

There was a discussion among the committee about limitations with inside CAP, a potential referendum for expenses, the benefits of having a steady tax rate increase and a schedule for repairs, incurring expenses for future revenues, and PILOT costs.

Bowen asked for public comment.

Chief Earl Meroney said there was a referendum in 2016 which was rejected by the voters. If there is another referendum and it is rejected, what does that mean for the police? Two percent of nothing is nothing. The municipal budget has been nothing for the past 22 years. The township has been playing catch up for the 22 years he has been here. We are looking forward now. The problem is, we never looked forward before, so we are never going to be able to catch up because we are so far behind. There is no plan. The current operational budget at the police department is \$8000. Two percent of \$8000 is not very much. Budgets in comparable police departments are \$80,000 to \$90,000. He would not waste time on a referendum because it was rejected in 2016.

Madden said there was not an inside CAP issue in 2016, and there is now, which has to be stressed in the new referendum. The consequences would have to be explained very carefully to the public if they do not agree to increase the inside CAP. Severe cuts would have to be made if it does not pass.

Susan Potter, 94 Sanders Lane, asked about the capacity of the new adult community and how many units have already been sold. Committeeman Grilletto responded to her questions.

Chief Earl Meroney asked if taxes are raised over the years, will it help with the inside CAP? Madden said no. Meroney asked how to raise the inside CAP. Madden said the inside CAP can be raised by ordinance at the beginning of the year. You can also bank what you do not use for 3 years. The township has used up all of the money it has banked. Another way to raise the inside CAP is with a referendum. Raising taxes has nothing to do with the inside CAP.

Lynn Pryzbylowski asked if the costs of the sewer hookups were negotiated to get a discount for township buildings, schools and the fire department so taxpayers are not hit with costs from three different budgets. Madden said they were not. Each entity has to go out to bid for its own sewer hookup. Lynn Pryzbylowski also asked if police salaries could be raised from the increase in tax revenue from Lennar's development. Bowen said the money from Lennar can be used, but it does not address the inside CAP. The inside CAP issue is for all township staff, including the police. Lynn Pryzbylowski said that the referendum would not pass, that is why she is asked about the funds from Lennar. Bowen said that 2016 referendum was specifically about police officers. The new question would be for all staff. The inside CAP is something that will have to be resolved with the State. Madden suggested using shared services agreements, which would go outside the inside CAP.


Bowen asked if there was any other public comment. There was none. Bowen closed public comment.

Cuozzo made an announcement that applications have to be into the MUA by this Friday to get \$1500 sewer hookup fee waived.

Bowen asked for a motion to adjourn.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR