

February 17, 2021
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Marinari. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Workshop. Due to the emergent situation with COVID-19 and the municipal building being closed, the meeting was conducted through Zoom.com for the public to participate.

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.”

Clerk Witham read the following statement regarding remote meetings:

Please be advised that this meeting is being held remotely according to DLGS guidelines as presented in Resolution No. 2020-351 that was adopted at the December 28, 2020 Township Committee meeting. Participants’ audio will be muted until the public comment portion of the meeting. We ask that each participant mute themselves as well to avoid any interference in the recorded meeting.

There will be an opportunity for public comment during the regular session of the meeting which shall be limited to 5 minutes per person. At the time you wish to make public comment, you may unmute yourself accordingly.

Should there be any disruption from the public during the remote meeting, they will be warned and should the conduct continue, they will be muted or removed from the public meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:

In the Meeting Room:

COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK MAYOR MARINARI CDC LEUTWYLER BA/CLERK WITHAM

CFO Madden was also present.

Chief Meroney was in attendance via Zoom and by telephone.

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

Mayor Marinari said the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a Budget Workshop. No formal action is to be taken.

Marinari spoke about the market analysis for 31 Main Street from Beth Kimmick and about the use of the Diocese property. Deputy Mayor Sorchik provided an update on the discussion with the Diocese about the use of the property. Sorchik suggested that single family homes would be a better fit for the township, rather than duplexes. Marinari said he said he hopes the township would not move forward until everyone agrees about how that property should look. He asked for comments from the committee members.

Grilletto spoke about the zoning of the property and said that while he thinks duplexes would be fine there, he prefers that single family homes be built. He said that the decision of the Land Use Board would have an impact on it. Bowen said he would like to have the Diocese come back with another discussion. Marinari asked Witham to reach out to the Diocese with the consensus from the meeting and the committee would wait to hear back from them.

Marinari said there are no resolutions and introduced CFO Madden to speak about the budget.

Madden said the packet of papers she provided tonight reflects everything she has emailed to the committee members, with the exception of the top sheet of potential changes. She said the packet includes the trust budget, revenues, the budget, and salaries and wages.

Madden spoke about the Open Space Trust Budget and the appropriation line items that have changed.

Madden went over revenues for 2021. She said when anticipating new revenues for a calendar year, the township cannot anticipate more revenue than the township raised the year before.

There is an exception due to Covid where the township can take a three-year average and use that amount for 2021.

Madden said there is just over a two-percent increase in the tax rate. The township will be using a little more of the surplus. She highlighted changes in revenue. There was a discussion about mobile home fees, interest on deposits and investments, the police tow yard, cell tower revenue, state aid, the Uniform Construction Code, grants, off-duty trust, the battery storage facility and New Hanover UCC. She said that salaries and wages is there for the committee's information.

Madden reviewed the highlighted line items in the budget. She said the budget meets all of the statutory guidelines. There was a discussion about engineering costs for the stormwater management plan and repair of the deteriorating infrastructure. There was a discussion with Chief Meroney about the police budget, including salaries, overtime, and vehicle repairs and maintenance. Madden spoke about the budgets for snow removal and for buildings and grounds. There was a discussion about hiring a cleaning service for the municipal building and the police department.

Madden spoke about the Capital Budget and leaving money in the inside CAP for next year. She talked about transferring money to purchase vehicles for construction, public works and the police department. There was a discussion about the pattern of purchasing vehicles each year and putting the police department on a three year rotation of buying new vehicles. Meroney and the committee discussed the purchase of body cameras for the police.

Madden wrapped up the budget by recommending that any savings in the capital outlay section be used to reduce the amount of surplus that the township is using, as opposed to reducing the tax rate.

Madden spoke about the Capital Bond Ordinance. She reviewed the printout from the Edmunds system as of February 16, 2021. She said projects can be swapped within categories that fit under that category, based on their useful life. She described the categories in the different sections and provided examples of how funds can be moved.

Madden asked if there were any questions or comments on the budget. Trotta suggested that the budget for economic development be reduced because no one is currently working in that spot and probably will not be for a while. There was further discussion about the utilization of funds in the Capital Bond Ordinance and the amount of money in the capital improvement fund.

Madden said she will forward the proposed budget to the auditor. She suggested that the budget be introduced on March 3, 2021. A resolution for self-examination of the budget also needs to be adopted. Otherwise, the budget can be held up.

The committee thanked Madden for her presentation.

BA/Clerk Witham read Resolution No. 2021-132, authorizing the convening of an executive session. The following matters will be discussed: personnel and contractual professional services.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2021-132, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive Session. Mayor Marinari called the Regular Session to order.

Marinari asked for public comment. There was none. Since there was no public comment, Marinari closed public comment. Marinari said he received notice from the school superintendent during the meeting that schools will be remote tomorrow.

Marinari asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk