

August 15, 2016  
Municipal Building  
121 Evergreen Road  
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to hold an Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining issues concerning the PBA contact with the Township's Labor Attorney and to discuss the non-binding referendum question for the November ballot.

**THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:**

MAYOR TROTTA	DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO
	COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI	BUS. ADM. DANCER
LABOR ATTORNEY GREITZ	CLERK HENDRICKSON	CDC LEUTWYLER

Committeeman Wysong was excused and Committeeman Marinari was running a little late. Committeeman Marinari arrived at the meeting at 7:10.

Mayor Trotta called the meeting to order and opened with the Flag Salute. A moment of silence followed.

Mayor Trotta read Resolution No. 2016-232 for executive session.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, RESOLUTION NO. 2016-232, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The Township Committee returned to Open Session.

Mayor Trotta said the Committee had recessed from the Executive Session to discuss the non-binding referendum with the PBA representatives. Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked if Uricks could be discussed; the attorney advised no.

Patrolmen Ryan Nani and Gary Schaal spoke about the referendum. Patrolman Nani said the number one thing has to be officer retention. The PBA's number one concern is keeping officers. They didn't know the exact question yet. Chief Petrecca sent a list of what he would like included in the question Patrolman Schaal said he didn't know if the PBA had any input on the question. Nani said the issue is keeping men in the department, no one is looking for new jobs, he said he thought it would be smart, he knows the town is hurting for money, but it would be smart to put it out as a referendum so people can vote on it so all the problems can be solved in one vote. Committeeman Lotito asked if they were looking for specific numbers. Nani said if there was an exorbitant amount, plus equipment and four officers, no way is it going to pass. Schaal said he did not know what the amount was Mayor Trotta said the number is now approaching \$600,000. Nani said \$66,000 would bring everyone back in step from the last contract that was the minimum with no raises. Nani continued by saying the Police budget is currently somewhere around \$780,000 in salaries alone. Nani said he thought the committee would have to go to \$200,000 pushing the referendum question to \$800,000/\$900,000 this would be close to a million dollars. He didn't think that would be a good idea, he didn't think it would pass. Nani asked how much is that in a tax increase. Deputy Mayor Sorchik said this was a substantial increase in taxes.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked what was the amount they were looking to put in the question, Nani said \$200,000, that would be cut in half the second year because the guys who missed there steps would go back to where they were. Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked if the \$200,000 included the \$66,000, Nani said yes. Patrolman Schaal asked if this referendum question was solely for the Police, Deputy Mayor Sorchik said the special question isn't written by the Township Committee, it is provided by the State. The November question has to be identical to the April question. The November question is non-binding it is to understand how the public feels about it. It has to be worded so that the public realizes how the money is spent, not just a dollar amount. If the public is in favor of the it will be on the April ballot. If the referendum is passed that is where the money has to be spent it can't be spent on anything else. If the public

votes it down in April, it can't be spent at all, zero money will be spent and that is the law. Nani and Schaal understood this. Deputy Mayor Sorchik said they will know by November how realistic this is.

Mayor Trotta said the non-binding referendum is to judge the opinion of the voter of how they feel, if it passes overwhelmingly the Township Committee will consider a binding referendum in April.

Mayor Trotta advised there is a lot of cost with putting the question on the ballot in April. They will evaluate the results of the November election to see if it will be worth it to put it on in April. If it is favorable but only by few votes, it may not be worth the \$30,000 to have that question on the ballot because it may not pass and then they will get nothing for that \$30,000.

Patrolman Schaal asked how was the committee looking to word the question in November. Trotta said it would mimic the State question that they would have to do in April, the State has a template. It is very specific. The question must include the dollar amount, the percentage of increase and where the money is going to go. Nani asked if they had a number, Trotta said that has to be decided. Trotta continued by saying the committee wanted the PBA's input before deciding on the dollar amount. They have the Chief's input already. Patrolman Nani said that it is equipment vs salary. Sorchik read the budget numbers as \$1,655,381 of which pure salary is \$875,000. That doesn't include pension, payroll taxes, etc. Of the \$1,655,381, \$1.2 million is salary and benefits.

Nani said that if it is just salary, it will most likely not pass, he said he thought it was too much money and too much of a tax increase. Sorchik said they have to decide what they are going to put on the referendum and that is why the committee wanted the PBA's input. Sorchik said he was asking the PBA for the number. Nani said \$200,000 which would be for a salary increase and the \$66,000 in steps. Nani said that would be a 5% increase in salary and steps. Mayor Trotta confirmed the steps, for instance if you were on Step 2 when the contracted started you would advance to Step 3. Schaal said the four officers who were recently hired would move 1 step, three officers would go three steps and one office would go two steps. They are also looking for four new officers. The \$200,000 is a ballpark figure. The \$66,000 will get everyone back in steps.

Attorney Greitz confirmed that if it is passed in November and goes to an April vote and does not vote and it doesn't pass in April, there will be no increase. The committee advised that is the law.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WILL RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The Township Committee returned to open session from Executive Session.

Mayor Trotta asked for a motion regarding the referendum questions.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, RESOLUTION NO. 2016-233 – REQUESTING THE OCEAN COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mayor Trotta opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC  
Municipal Clerk