

February 15, 2017
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Workshop. (This meeting was previously scheduled for February 9th but due to inclement weather it was cancelled and conducted on this date February 15th).

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

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:

COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO	COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG	MAYOR TROTTA
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI	BUS. ADM. DANCER
CLERK HENDRICKSON	CFO MADDEN	CDC LEUTWYLER

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

Mayor Trotta said the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Workshop. No formal action will be taken.

CFO Madden said that one cent this year is equal to \$79,439.59 and that is based on the net valuation of the town. Trotta said that was pretty much unchanged from last year. Madden said this budget reflects a half of a cent increase in taxes.

Madden continued by saying the Fund Balance as of December 31, 2016 is \$616,158.64. Madden reviewed the Revenues. State Aid stayed the same. Uniform Construction Code realized their anticipated revenue in 2016. The Township will need to know from the Board of Education if they will be using SRO's again this year. Madden said there weren't many changes on the Revenue side.

Business Administrator Dancer entered the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Madden reviewed the changes in the Budget since the last budget meeting. Mayor Trotta said the Township had received Tax Collector, Laura Giovene's letter of resignation today. This may be a minor issue with the budget. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of a shared service. Madden reviewed the Group Health, Vision and Dental Insurance and also Health Benefit Waiver. Police, other expenses and vehicle lease amounts were adjusted. The Courtesy Busing Agreement amount was adjusted due to a decrease in the amount.

The Reserve for Uncollected Taxes was a plug number which will be calculated and adjusted by the auditor.

There was discussion regarding the November 14, 2016 Budget workshop minutes about the SRO's.

Regarding the Capital Budget, there were no changes. There was discussion regarding the purchase of the Ford F350 pickup w/plow for the Maintenance Department. Madden explained the Open Space Tax and Municipal Open Space Tax adjustments.

Madden said if the Committee was in agreement with the budget as is, it represents a one half of one cent increase in the taxes. She said there was money for salary adjustments for the contractual employees.

Mayor Trotta asked for any questions or comments. Committeeman Wysong asked about the Police overtime for this year, which was discussed. Mayor Trotta said he was told it would be controlled, part of that was for the two SROs who are needed on the streets.

There was discussion regarding comp time issues. Madden said at the next meeting, she would like the Governing Body to do a Dedication by Rider for accumulated absences this would help to pay for comp time. It was noted that overtime has been increasing every year between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year for the last five years. There was a discussion about bringing it under some kind of control. A question was asked about what would happen if there was no

money to transfer from another account in the last two months of the year, it was explained that the money would have to be borrowed from the State as an emergency authorization.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the PBA Contract and negotiations. Business Administrator Dancer read a section of the Contract regarding scheduling, he brought to the Committee's attention the State Interest Binding Law which pertains to negotiations, etc. The Committee discussed obtaining information from the police for budgetary reasons. Deputy Mayor Sorchik said he had asked them for information in writing with respect to scheduling, but has had no response. He said that the Governing Body had the right to ask for any type of report as long as it was administrative and did not deal with a crime or ongoing investigation.

There was also discussion regarding the County Sheriff's Office and what services and programs are available to the Townships.

CFO Madden brought to the Committee's attention the combination of hours worked in a two week period with respect to work duty and off duty work. It was noted that on the timesheets there was a strange combination of hours worked, on three occasions 24 hours straight. Deputy Mayor Sorchik explained different scenarios, which could explain certain circumstances. Madden also said it would be helpful to have logs to track odometer readings in the cars for maintenance purposes of the vehicles.

Mayor Trotta asked for any other questions regarding the budget. Trotta said he had one as they were working on ways to give the Township new ideas for revenues, one of which was battery storage. He asked if there was anything new on this. Administrator Dancer said he thought the Township should be getting payment in lieu of property taxes. This was written into the agreement but final approval has not been received yet. They have received approval from the Township but it was still contingent upon the grid with DELMARVA.

CFO Madden said if the Committee was fine with the budget, she could move forward. She has prepared the Levy Cap Workbook and calculation for Inside Cap. She said for next year, the appropriations Inside Cap, which was everything but the Grants, Debt Service and Capital, the bank is getting tighter for the Township because of the Police Salary and Wage category. Dancer said the bottom line is the 2% Tax Cap, which we will be at the max for spending very soon even with the COLA ordinance going from 2% to 3.5%. He said the law will say you can't spend any more money. Madden said for 2017 the Levy Cap Workbook will be okay inside CAP with the appropriations. She said she would be working on the User Friendly Budget and that she will update the auditor with any new information and that the budget will be ready for introduction on March 1st.

Mayor Trotta said there was one other thing to discuss. He received a letter from Meals on Wheels which gives free meals to seniors in this town. They have spent \$18,000 and are asking the Township for \$1,000 for 38 residents. Administrator Dancer said they are heavily supported by Ocean County Freeholders as well as by the local benevolent agencies and churches. Mayor Trotta said he would respond to them letting them know the Township has nothing to contribute this year but to contact the Township in the fall when we are putting the budget together for 2018. Dancer felt it would be wise to first check on the statutory regulations and also at the County level.

Mayor Trotta asked Madden if her department could give him the MRNA, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, for the last three years. The Committee thanked Madden for her hard work and good job on the budget.

Mayor Trotta asked for any new business.

Mr. Leutwyler reminded everyone about the Fire Budget Election on Saturday, February 18th from 2 to 9 at the Fire House. He also wanted to wish Committeeman Marinari and his wife of 48 years a Happy Anniversary.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik said he met with the Fire Commissioners. They have a new accountant and are redoing the way they run operations and training to save money. Their actual budget increase was only \$4,100, due to the fact that instead of buying a new ambulance for \$200,000, they were rebuilding an old ambulance at a price of \$41,000 by putting a new truck under the ambulance body. He said that in future considerations when they have to upgrade ambulances, they were looking for a van instead of an ambulance, which was less expensive. He noted that they were well within the 2% CAP with a one-half cent increase.

The Commissioners were briefing Jensen's on the budget they are also sending out a mailing.

Administrator Dancer said that the legislation he sponsored to have the Fire District election follow the model of the school has passed both the Appropriations Committee and the Law and Public Safety Committee, this means they can move the election to November as long as they are within the 2% CAP, there will be no vote. He said everyone was in favor of it.

Mayor Trotta asked the Committee to review the folder on the Conference Table with the resumes for a Deputy Municipal Clerk. He hoped to appoint someone at the next Township Committee Meeting and asked for someone to help with the interviews. There was discussion regarding appointment and overlap of time until the Deputy Clerk's retirement date of May 31st.

Committeeman Lotito asked about the cleaning company. Mr. Leutwyler said it was good and Clerk Hendrickson and Chief Petrecca in the Police Department agreed it was good as well. Administrator Dancer said this is the same company that does the Legislative Office.

Mayor Trotta asked for any further business, there was none.

Mayor Trotta asked for any public comment. There was no public comment. Since there was none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk