

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

April 8, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 6:05 p.m. Present: Mayor Rich, Committeemen Molnar and Fisher, CFO Carro and Clerk Olsen. Also in attendance was Hal Shute who was joined by Jennifer Andreoli and Alfonsina Sabidussi at 6:45 p.m., together with several people in anticipation of the regular meeting.

In compliance with the Public Meetings Act, Mayor Rich announced that this Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act with notices faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times on April 5, 2013. A copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The meeting was recorded via digital recording system.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

A chart of salary requests was presented for review. Each request was briefly discussed in turn with the decision made for an across the board 2.75% increase for non-contract staff. The exception is the judge who will see an increase of approximately 9%.

A proposed e-ticket system will automate the Court and limit extra help to court sessions only. The salary line for Affordable Housing was reduced to \$6000.

Changes to the salaries of certain contract employees will have to be calculated to arrive at the final number to be used. Also noted was that there will be promotions to the Sergeant position later in the year. Whether this would subsequently result in filling the vacated corporeal positions was questioned.

The Township Committee will take no increase.

It was agreed that a CDL must be obtained by July 1st for the newest member of DPW.

A requested salary bump, tied to completion of the activities list, was discussed and met with general consensus. Request for additional time off when administrative offices are closed was rejected.

Moving Public Assistance to the County was advanced. The procedure to do so has to be researched.

A new contract with the Captain is forthcoming and will mirror that of the officers plus salary increases.

The assistant waste security officer will move to the Waste Security Officer slot which pays \$12.84/hr.

The Capital project list with rankings made at the March 27th meeting was presented for another look. Joining various pieces of police equipment, OEM radios and AED, fire company turnout gear, firehouse doors and furnace in the #1 slot from the last meeting, was a garage roof on the municipal building property (\$15,000) and a DPW 10K generator (\$3000). Items indicated as #2 (fire company radios, DPW garage roof and municipal building generator) will be looked at again in June. \$25,000 was allocated towards a fire truck but no firm commitment made. A request for an audit of fire company operations was suggested. Mr. Molnar requested that a local electrician be contacted for a price and size of a generator suitable for running the various municipal building systems, complete with transfer switch.

A sheet of Appropriations not previously identified was distributed. Various line items were increased/decreased as follows:

General Administration – \$1000 added to codification of ordinances; \$6800 for the new website
Planning Board - \$2000 reduction

LOSAP - \$15,000

Roads – increased by \$10,000 to \$80,000.

Milling and re-laying the base on George Washington Road will have to be outsourced (quotes will be needed) but the stone topping and rolling can be handled in-house by DPW.

Solid Waste - \$10,000 added for clean up disposal and hauling fees

Vehicle Maintenance – lease payment of \$11,000 for 2nd police car was added

Park Maintenance – to be funded through the Open Space Trust Fund

The discussion turned to holding rotating clean up days. An ordinance to authorize the charging of fees will be needed. However, these cannot be anticipated until the 2014 budget when there's a history of collection. The matter of hauling is still unresolved.

Introduction of the 2013 budget is scheduled for the April 24th meeting.

Mayor Rich overviewed budget revenues and rates for the past several years, together with subsequent increases, and percentage of built in cushion, noting that his goal is to stem the trajectory of growth. A brief exchange ensued with the CFO about what was included in the analysis. An adjustment to the revenue side was recommended and it was noted that the Township has run extremely lean the past three years.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Hal Shute relayed that the goal of the recent re-fi was to balance the revenue in the Open Space Trust Fund with the debt service. It came close but remains \$20,000 short of that goal. He requested that this shortfall be closed via the operating budget.

A 2012 bill has been received for the Garden Solar lawsuit. The CFO will check on the availability of the reserve to cover the invoice.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:17 p.m. on motion by Molnar.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: April 24, 2013