

# SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

## March 10, 2010 – 4:15 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m.  
Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Masterson (4:27 p.m.) and Fisher, and CFO Luhrs.

In compliance with the Public Meetings Act, Mayor Molnar 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 March 6, 2010. 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 not recorded.

### **BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

A revised budget packet that included individual sheets on revenues, levy cap calculations, changes made since the last meeting/items for tonight's budget discussion, and capital budget requests was presented.

Sheet 1 assumed a 15% reduction in last year's CMPTRA; half-year receipts from trash permits of \$17,000; and, a preliminary 4 cent tax increase. It was recently learned that \$29,000 has been collected for trash permits to date. The Committee agreed that permit fees would continue through the end of the year, adding another \$20,000 to the revenue projection.

Sheet 2 revealed that additional cuts of \$114,000 are needed to get under the levy cap. With the increased projections for trash permits, this was reduced by \$33,000.

Sheet 3 showed changes from the previous budget meeting which have been included in tonight's calculations. The Audit line was reduced by \$2,700 with the removal of the single audit provision; the deferred charge on the purchase of a dump truck in 2005 was reduced by half to \$8000; and, \$2000 was added to solid waste for dumpsters, a net gain of \$8700. A number of items were listed as a starting point for discussion:

Township Committee S&W – (no change)

Police Secretary – decision made not to hire as the office has been operating for the past year on a four day schedule. (\$3000 deleted)

Municipal Prosecutor – possibly cutting the number of courts was suggested (no change pending further discussions)

Planning Board – letter was received from the Chair that the previously made cut will not cover contractual obligations for the attorney and that there was inadequate funding for the engineer. Holding meetings every other month was suggested in light of lack of new applications. Attorney's contract will be checked to ascertain if payment is required even with no meeting. (no change to line item)

Public Health O&M – this line covers township obligations from the salt suit and includes DEP reports, hauling and disposal and ongoing maintenance. Sadat has been contacted for an estimate. (reduced to \$20,000)

Fire Company – (reduced to \$20,000)

COAH – advertising was the driver for last year's expenditures (overall reduction of \$8500--\$1000 from S&W; \$3000 from OE)

Construction – (no change)

Police car lease – (item deleted; line reduced to 0)

Discussion ensued concerning big ticket items and status—police (contract), garbage & trash (contract), staff (including in-house construction pros and cons), and that the 4-day work week last year saved around \$45,000. Once the State passes legislation, there will be 1.5% contribution to health care benefits for employees, except for police. It was noted that the contracts for the lieutenant and the patrolmen expire this year. Tentative employee retirement plans have been requested from the police department.

The possibility of eliminating assistants in the various departments was suggested as was an across the board cut of some kind. Mrs. Luhrs offered that furloughs be considered so as not to reduce salary and affect pensions.

Other items noted included: 1) open space newsletter is not required to be mailed, although it serves to inform land owners/taxpayers that are not residents; 2) status of tax map updates needs to be determined; 3) possible resumed discussion about a shared assessor with Lambertville; 4) direction of police department; 5) status of hauler insurance situation and a plan B if necessary; 6) the need for new dumpster quotes; and, 7) that professional services contracts need to be bid out for 2011.

Mrs. Luhrs projected that there's still \$45,000 in cuts needed with the only other option being a request for a cap waiver. A particular line item would have to be identified and an introduced budget in place in order to apply for this. She surmised that there will probably be 500 towns seeking cap waivers as their surpluses are gone.

The final sheet that was briefly touched upon was capital budget requests. There's \$138,000 available but no requests have been made except for new garage doors for the DPW.

The next round of budget cuts will be held after Governor Christie's March 16<sup>th</sup> speech. Notification of cuts will be held until after that event.

The following resolution amending the Temporary Capital Budget showing the borrowing of \$100,000 was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION #56-2010  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2010 TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell constituted their 2010 temporary capital budget on March 3, 2010;

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend the temporary Capital Budget for the year 2010 by changing therein the authorization for the following project ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, that the following amendment to the 2010 temporary Capital budget be made:

CAPITAL BUDGET (Current Year Action)  
PLANNED FUNDING SERVICES FOR CURRENT YEAR-2009

Project Title	Grants in Aid and other	Debt Authorized
Rocktown Road Improvements		
From	\$300,000	\$ -0-
To	\$200,000	\$100,000
Total- All Projects		
From	\$300,000	\$-0-
To	\$200,000	\$100,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services within three days after the adoption of this project for the 2010 temporary capital budget, to be included in the 2010 permanent capital budget as adopted.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Fisher, with a second from Masterson.

**DECISION/RESOLUTION RE: POLICE OFFICE ASSISTANT:**

Based on budget discussions, a decision has been made not to hire.

**AMENDED 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN & RESOLUTION:**

Lincoln has advised that our current plan needs to be updated in order to comply with amended sections of the IRS Code. The proposed amendment will have no negative future impact on any participant's account and will not negatively affect any past benefits accrued to the participant or their beneficiaries. Item held for 4/7 meeting.

**POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS:** None

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on motion by Fisher, seconded by Masterson.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lora L. Olsen, RMC  
Township Clerk