

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2009 & 4:30 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 4:35 p.m. Present: Mayor Corboy, Committeemen Masterson and Molnar, Committeeman-elect Fisher and CFO Luhrs. The public was represented by Hal Shute.

In compliance with the Public Meetings Act, Mayor Corboy announced that this Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act with notices faxed to the Lambertville Beacon, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times on December 1, 2009. 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:

Jane Luhrs, Township CFO, relayed that actual departmental budgets are not due until December 15th and that this session is for first of the year review. A two sheet packet and memo from the employees were distributed. The revenue report showed that receipts are mostly on target for the year, with a few exceptions—court and construction. The garbage & trash permit fees of \$32,000+ and Fire Inspection fees of \$4400 can be anticipated in next year's budget. This year's expected CMPTRA is down 5%. Although the majority of revenues are being collected, there is no excess, which is what is needed. The tax collection rate appears stable. The League is working to get the CMPTRA re-instated but this number has been going down every year by the percentage increase given to energy receipts. Mrs. Luhrs also relayed that Auditor Case heard that State aid numbers will not be released until April.

A 2010 preliminary budget estimate showing increases in expenses, including "must" fund and discretionary items, was reviewed. Funds needed to reinstate the 2009 salaries and increases to match those given to the police for 2009 and 2010 would equal approximately \$100,000. Items that must be funded include: 1) health benefits (expected to increase by 18%); 2) police salary increases of 4% on January 1st; and 3) both PERS and PFRS pensions, including 2009 deferrals. On the latter, \$100,000 is a must but \$250,000+ would cover the total as interest is accruing on the deferrals. There is also the Fire Company to be considered but their budget request has not yet arrived. They were given \$10,000 of the \$27,500 requested 2009. One positive note is that the price of salt is down, so the Township can purchase 600 tons for the amount that a lesser quantity cost last year.

A discussion ensued about the points raised. Mr. Corboy feels strongly that the staff should receive the same percentage raise as the police and that this and the Fire Company can be accommodated if legal expenses go away. The wild card is the State. Mrs. Luhrs indicated that she expects operating budgets to be flat and noted that there was no new police car purchased last year. This sparked a brief discussion about the number of vehicles needed and that a meeting with department heads should take place sooner than later.

Returning to the issue of non-union employee salaries, Mrs. Luhrs noted that a decision is needed. There is considerable work to be done and employees need to know if there will be a return to normal business hours as some have taken second jobs. The decision was to reinstate salaries, including Committee members, to the 2008 level and return to a five day work week as of January 1st. The Clerk was directed to send a memorandum to the staff with this information.

Budget requests and a better handle on where the lawsuit stands is information needed to proceed further. However Fire, Police and Roads are the other big ticket items to be funded. A meeting with representatives of these entities will be held on December 22nd at 4:15 to discuss their particular budget needs.

A brief discussion on the frequency of 2010 meeting dates resulted in a decision to hold just one regular meeting a month.

Resolution Awarding RO – This item was held over from last evening. Although the low bidder is Portasoft by \$64.00, the consultant suggested that the Township consider that Kel-Tren has spent about three hours so far trying to get the current RO unit working and making sure that the residents had water over the Thanksgiving holiday. There are costs involved for replacing the pump and motor of the RO system as part of this effort. It is the consultant's understanding that Kel-Tren plans to forego invoicing the Township for these costs (which come to approximately \$1500) as part of the RO replacement. If the low bidder is awarded the contract, the Township will likely get an invoice from Kel-Tren for the costs incurred, making the low bid award not as cost effective as it looks at first glance. Given this information, the Committee was unanimous in their decision to go with the KelTren quote.

RESOLUTION #191-2009

WHEREAS, the reserve osmosis system installed in 2005 at 254 Mt. Airy Harb. Road is failing; and

WHEREAS, quotes have been received for the purchase and installation of a 2200 gallon per day reverse osmosis treatment unit for treatment of water from a shallow well at 254 Mt. Airy Harb. Road as follows:

Kel-Tren WaterCare	\$3,939.00
The Portasoft Company	\$3,875.00
Culligan	\$6,185.00

WHEREAS, although Portasoft is the apparent low bidder, it is the recommendation of Suzanne McMacaoay of Sadat Associates, the Township's environmental consultant for the project, that the quote be awarded to Kel-Tren due to circumstances that make Kel-Tren the more cost effective choice; and

WHEREAS the CFO has certified that funds are available in Public Health OE for this expenditure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the quote for the purchase and installation of a whole house reverse osmosis point of entry treatment unit be awarded to Kel-Tren in the amount of \$3,939.00

The Resolution of award was unanimously approved on motion by Molnar, seconded by Masterson.

Chapter 159 Resolutions: The following resolutions will add video camera and bullet proof grant money, respectively, to the 2009 budget.

RESOLUTION #192-2009

**FORM OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE
AND APPROPRIATION – NJS 40A:4-87**

Township of West Amwell
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Certified to Director of the Division of Local Government Services

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget or any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2009 in the sum of \$35,000.00, which is now available from U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services Grant in the amount of \$35,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$35,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Miscellaneous Revenues-Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations: U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of funds from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Services in the amount of \$35,000.00.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Molnar, seconded by Masterson.

RESOLUTION #193-2009
FORM OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE
AND APPROPRIATION – NJS 40A:4-87

Township of West Amwell
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Certified to Director of the Division of Local Government Services

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget or any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2009 in the sum of \$1,136.00 which is now available from 2009 Federal Bulletproof Vest Grant in the amount of \$1,136.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$1,136.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Miscellaneous Revenues-Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations: 2009 Federal Bulletproof Vest Grant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance 2009 Bulletproof Vest Grant in the amount of \$1,136.00.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Molnar, seconded by Masterson.

Other Items:

- 1) Renewal of the fire company insurance was approved. The premium will increase by \$59.00.
- 2) Contact has been made with Don Hart concerning funding for the Rocktown Hill drainage project. Mr. Corboy explained that the DRJTBC has some money coming back to them from municipalities that did not go through with anticipated projects. However, our proposed project is rather unique in that funds would be coming from the DRJTBC, not the municipality, to match what the State has awarded. Engineer Clerico

will be consulted as to whether this arrangement will be permitted.

3) Mr. Fisher would like to attend the League's orientation seminar in January. The \$125 fee needs to be allocated in the temporary budget. Approved.

4) A cost containment suggestion was received from Judge Barson concerning the position of prosecutor. If this position is brought in-house, there could be significant savings. If not, the line item would need to be increased to cover the court time anticipated. Discussion ensued over whether to advertise now or make a three-month appointment on January 1st as the first court is January 13th. The decision was to make an initial three-month appointment and then advertise for the position to see if a savings can be achieved. Appropriate measures will be taken in the temporary budget to allow for a possible employee.

5) Last evening, Mr. Barson requested consideration of health benefits in lieu of salary. Concern was raised about setting a precedent for other employees; the mechanics of such a proposal; that this is not covered in the policy manual as only full time employees receive this benefit; and, whether this can be done for an employee with no salary. There was also the question of whether this would be single or spousal coverage although Mr. Barson indicated that he would make up any difference if his salary does not completely cover the cost. The judge will be requested to provide contact information for the towns that currently do this.

6) A member of the Historic Committee has requested that she be contacted prior to re-appointment.

7) A backup plan for the upkeep of the website should be given consideration.

8) The Salary & Wage ordinance will be presented for review at the December 22nd meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Masterson relayed that the outside lights were not operating properly when he arrived this evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:56 p.m. on motion by Molnar, seconded by Corboy.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk