

# SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

December 21, 2010 – 4:15 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 4:15 p.m. Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Masterson and Fisher and Committeeman-elect Rich. Also present: Mary Hyland (4:15), Bonnie Eick (4:49), and Donna Griffiths (6:12) and CFO Jane Luhrs (5:45)

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 December 14, 2010 with revised notice faxed to same and posted on December 17, 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.

## **CLOSED SESSION:**

### **RESOLUTION #164-2010**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of West Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

#### **PERSONNEL - Interviews**

3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 5:33 p.m.*

A special meeting will be held December 29, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. to conduct interviews for the position of Assistant Waste Security Laborer and Payroll Clerk.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

A preliminary Temporary Budget was provided by the CFO for discussion purposes based on last year's actual expenditures through March 31, 2010 and best guess estimates for the first 3 months of 2011 in certain areas—such as police. The temporary budget is introduced on January 1<sup>st</sup> and can be amended prior to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Molnar relayed that Lt. Bartzak has questioned the need to advertise for police officers as there are applicants on file. The attorney has been contacted but more information is needed from the lieutenant. An estimated cost of a new patrolman was provided.

Concern for a Plan B for garbage was raised. Names of additional container vendors will be needed for the quote process. Additional discussion will be required as this will also involve such matters as screening/fencing, how to transport, and that empty containers are an attractive nuisance for dumping.

The temporary budget sheet was reviewed, especially those areas that needed Committee input. Mr. Rich inquired as to intent of the Committee to meet with various departments early next year and there was affirmative consensus. The area of Committee salary was particularly noted and the intent to restore same. This will necessitate reducing other lines.

Mrs. Luhrs noted that the temporary budget numbers are approximately \$200,000 less than last year and that anything not bolded reflects what was spent in the first 3 months of last year. The maximum allowed to be appropriated is \$580,606.69. As for Committee pay, there can be one quarter of the year's total added in but another line will have to be reduced. Questions were raised concerning several other line items. Mrs. Luhrs relayed that these are estimates and depend on staffing, although if two police officers are added before the end of March, there would not be enough money to cover. The overtime situation was also mentioned as this was not accounted for in the first quarter numbers. Given the lateness to which State numbers are received, a full budget probably won't be in place until June but after March 31<sup>st</sup>, one twelfth more can be appropriated in the temporary budget via a resolution. Overall, the comfort

level with the numbers shown is low and there are some unknowns as to the Committee's direction, but for an initial budget for January 1<sup>st</sup>, will serve the purpose. Adjustments can be implemented after decisions are made as to hiring and any additions/deletions to health benefits. Other items discussed include:

- The Roads budget could be wiped out if there are a couple of snowstorms. \$30,000 of the total OE line is for a salt contract that will be awarded in January.
- For solid waste collection, garbage and trash tipping fees and salaries have not been determined.
- Certain line items, such as pensions, are due by April 1<sup>st</sup> and must be paid in full.
- The number assigned to vehicle maintenance would not provide for a leased car.
- Court numbers assume the hiring of a deputy and provides for salary of the court administrator and judge.
- The tax collector line is based on \$15,000 for the year and includes assistant work for the first quarter of the year.
- The affordable housing line was selected for reduction to fund Committee salaries.

The budget workshop portion of the meeting was held as another Closed Session was required.

#### RESOLUTION #165-2010

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and  
WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of West Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:  
PERSONNEL - Interviews
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 6:37 p.m.*

Returning to the budget workshop portion of the meeting, the following items were discussed:

- Advertisement of maintenance quotes for police vehicles; possible revised parameters
- Salary & Wage ordinance and resolution; no salary increase indicated at this time but changes and additions made to date will be prepared for January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Molnar relayed that he has a conflict with the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday meeting date in 2011. Discussion ensued and a move to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday was agreed upon.

#### **APPLICATION FOR RAFFLES:**

Item held.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No public in attendance.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:68 p.m. on motion by Molnar, seconded by Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lora L. Olsen, RMC  
Township Clerk