

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Meeting

February 10, 2016

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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Roll Call

Present

Mr. Dunham
Mrs. Merz
Mr. Birmingham
Vice President Sanchelli
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

President Yocum

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Mayor Felter and Administrator James Leach are present. Also present is CFO William Eagen."

Salute to the Flag

Vice President Sanchelli asked everyone to rise and Salute the Flag.

Notice of Presiding Officer

Sanchelli said, "This Budget Council meeting for February 10, 2016, commencing at 7:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on February 4, 2016."

2016 Capital Budget

Parks & Grounds

- **Request: Ford F-350 Pick Up** **\$48,000.00**
- **Request: John Deere 5075M Utility Tractor** **\$80,000.00**

Burns explained that the Ford Pick Up will replace the 2000 Super Duty Mason Dump that is set to be auctioned. The Utility Tractor will replace the 2004 McCormick Farm Tractor. Burns detailed the work that the Utility Tractor will be able to accomplish.

Sanchelli suggested that the Pick Up truck be tabled. Leach said that the Open Space/Rec Trust will be replenished with money from Green Acres by about \$350,000/\$400,000. Leach suggested that some of those funds could go towards the truck. Eagen said that about \$100,000 is going to pay down the Note on the turf field; \$130,000 is going toward the gypsy moth spraying. Eagen said that last year \$123,000 was taken out of the Open Space/Rec Trust for the Recreation Capital Projects. The money that remained in the fund was used for Open Space Projects. Sanchelli asked if the truck will be partially funded from the Trust. Leach said that if the truck is going to be purchased it should be removed from this appropriation and it should be appropriated by resolution from the Trust at a later date.

Dunham commented that he receives nice compliments on the field maintenance. Burns thanked Dunham and said he will pass that along to his Department. Burns left the meeting 7:18 p.m.

Recreation

Grace Rhinesmith came forward.

- **Electronic Sign Boards** **\$40,000.00 changed to \$25,000**

Leach said that he recommends that this figure be dropped to \$22,000 or \$25,000 for one sign. There is a lot of labor involved with the installation of the electronic sign boards. Merz asked where the sign will be installed. Rhinesmith said Camp Jefferson. Dunham asked where the first sign was installed. Rhinesmith said the initial electrical work was done on Berkshire Valley Road across from Marios but the sign board is not installed yet.

- **Request: Paving Fireman's Field & Camp Path** **\$45,000.00 changed to \$15,000**

Leach advised the Council that the paving should be cut to \$15,000 because there is \$44,000 encumbered for Fireman's Field paving already.

Dial A Ride

Rhinesmith said that she has placed 2 vehicles in the Budget for Dial A Ride to continue the replacement of the vehicles. Rhinesmith said that the plan is to cycle out the old cars one at a time. Rhinesmith said that the Transit Connects are working well.

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Rhinesmith said she will investigate whether the vehicles requested are under State Contract.

Dunham asked the Administration if there are any vehicles that will be rotated to the Dial A Ride Program. Leach said there are a few Crown Vics that will go to the Program. Dunham asked Rhinesmith how many vehicles the program has now and Rhinesmith stated nine. Dunham asked for a list of vehicles with the mileage. Rhinesmith said she will provide that to the Council.

Dunham asked how many employees currently do the Dial A Ride scheduling and Rhinesmith said that there are three full time and a fourth is being trained. There are nine vehicles; right now they are down to seven. Leach said that he would like to have the Assistant Supervisor and one or two of the drivers meet with Dunham and Merz to give a more detailed explanation of the scheduling.

Birmingham asked about the County MAPS Program and Rhinesmith said that the County Sub-Grants \$18,000 back to the Township.

- **Request: Architectural Plan of Camp** **\$20,000.00**

Leach explained that this money is for specs for work to the main Lodge.

- **Request: Bus Shelter**

Rhinesmith said that there is no shelter for the buses at DPW. Dunham said that the price on the handout is \$41,000. Rhinesmith said she will get back to the Council with the correct number.

Merz asked how many projects have been financed out of Camp proceeds. Leach said that the water line is being financed out of Camp proceeds. Leach said that when it is decided what will be funded this year, Eagen will take as much from the Trust Accounts as can be funded. Leach said that any money spent out of the Rec Trust Fund must be approved by the Council.

Fire Companies: Milton Fire Company #1 and Lake Hopatcong Company #2

Leach advised that both Fire Companies are funded each year \$50,000 for Capital. The Fire Company Officers make up their own Capital expenses. Milton has been working on an air pack project and is purchasing air masks and cylinders. Chief DeLoreto said that Company #2 is budgeting Capital money for this year and next year toward a project for diesel exhaust systems for both houses. The project should cost in the area of \$70,000. DeLoreto said that by doing both houses simultaneously, money can be saved on labor and the shipping of parts. DeLoreto said that by doing this over a 2 year period, he will also have a buffer for the replacement of equipment.

Leach said that the Fire Departments have been very good stewards of their Capital funds.

Lake Hopatcong Company #2

- **Request: Fire Boat** **\$300,000.00**

DeLoreto said that the Defender, the current Fire Boat on the Lake, needs to be replaced. This boat was constructed in 1983 and DeLoreto detailed the multiple engine and structural problems. An assessment was done a few years back but the structural part was not done because that would have entailed disassembling the boat. DeLoreto said that the Department is looking to replace the boat with a 26 foot aluminum fire boat.

Sanchelli commented that the Council spoke to the Administration about inquiring about some mutual aid from the surrounding Municipalities around the Lake. Leach said that he met with the Chief and donations can be requested. Leach said that Jefferson has a unique situation because of the two islands with almost 100 houses. Dunham said that there is a need but the other towns can contribute. Leach said that it has always been the protocol that Jefferson does the rescue and the State Police Patrol the Lake. Sanchelli said that for the last 40 years, the Fire Company has been assisting

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with that Fire Boat, Budgets are tight, there could be some reciprocation on the Lake.

DeLoreto stated that the Fire Company has stepped up to address this issue. A separate account has been set up and fundraising has started. DeLoreto said that there is probably about \$10,000 in the account already; \$9,000 has come from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. DeLoreto said that has been in contact with every Marina in Jefferson Township and they are sending out fliers. DeLoreto said he has spoken with Mount Arlington and he has permission to go into their jurisdiction and distribute fliers.

Sanchelli commented that Jefferson Township is ultimately going to fund this boat, the question should be to the Councils of the towns surrounding the Lake to contribute something. Merz commented that maybe something will come from Morris County Parks.

Leach said that he would like the Chief to give a timeline of how long it would take to go out to bid and when the Department would need the money. DeLoreto said to take delivery of the boat in the Spring of 2017, they would have a year to speak with vendors and put together the specs. There was a vendor on the State Contract last year. DeLoreto said that he will get back to the Administration with the information.

Leach asked the Chief to design the specs. At a later point in time the Council's Public Safety Committee, Eagen, the Mayor and he can meet with the Squads and the Fire Department Chiefs to put together a definitive funding plan for funding public safety equipment.

Milton First Aid Squad and Lake Hopatcong Rescue Squad

Leach said that the town funds each squad with a base donation of \$45,000. The squads are required to give the Township a financial statement each year. The Township also pays the Workman's Compensation, Casualty and Liability Insurance. The Township also supplies their Communications.

Ambulances were purchased at \$145,000 in 2012 and anything above that cap was to come out of the squads' donation. Leach said that both squads are looking for new rigs. Leach suggested that each squad let the town know which rig is to be replaced and the mechanic will inspect that rig. The same Public Safety Committee will meet with the Administration to create a funding plan for rigs with a two year gap between the purchases.

Annual Financial Statement

Leach advised the Council that the Annual Financial Statement is completed. The debt ratio is down this year to .66 from 1.8 last year. The Auditor likes the ratio to be below 1. Leach said the surplus is up about \$340,000.

Eagen said that the Financial statements were mailed out today in accordance with the State's timeframe so the Township will receive a "yes" on the Best Practices list this year.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Adjournment at 8:27 p.m.

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye
Vice President Sanchelli	Aye
President Yocum	Absent

Dated: February 10, 2016

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Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President