

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

March 20, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

27

Roll Call

Present

Mr. Dunham
Mrs. Merz
Mr. Birmingham
President Yocum
Lawrence Cohen, Township Attorney
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

Vice President Sanchelli
Arrived 7:00 p.m.

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

Notice of Presiding Officer

President Yocum said, "This Budget/Regular Council meeting for March 20, 2013, commencing at 6:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on March 14, 2013."

Budget Meeting

Miscellaneous Capital Budget

Clerk's Office \$5,000.00

Harvin explained the on-going project to scan and microfilm the Tax Cash books along with the ongoing preservation of minute books.

Historical Society (Electric Toilets) \$1,200.00

Leach explained that the actual cost is about \$1,800 because this project includes some interior renovation. The Historical Society should be able to go ahead with the project.

Municipal Building Renovations \$20,000.00

Leach said the paneling in the Council Chambers will be covered with sheetrock, spackle and paint; door replacement; add chair rail. Phase 2 will be the reconfiguring of the dais.

Health Center (Roof Replacement) \$35,000.00

Leach explained that the roof has been patched twice. The upstairs is leaking and now there has been damage.

Health Dept. \$ 2,700.00

Cabinets are 40 years old and inoperable, need for replacement.

Water Capital \$60,000.00

Last year the meter replacement program began. To date, 500 meters have been purchased and 475 have been installed. This year, another 485 will be purchased and installed. With this purchase and replacement, a ¼ of all the meters will have been replaced. With radio meters, no handwritten data is needed. The data goes directly from the radio to the laptop computer.

Building Department \$25,000.00

Leach said this is to replace the Construction Official's Ford Explorer which has 120,000 miles. Merz asked the year of purchase for the Explorer and Leach said he will obtain that information.

Capital Adjustments

Firearms Range Remove/Re-Appropriate \$35,000.00

Leach said that last year \$35,000 was budgeted for the Firearms Range upgrades. There was also \$50,000 budgeted for addition to the Prospect Point Firehouse. The Range program cannot be done at this time because of the cost quoted was not high enough. Leach said they would like to re-appropriate \$25,000 of those monies toward the Firehouse addition. The quotes have come in over the budget for

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

March 20, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

28

the Firehouse addition, mainly due to the oversize garage doors. The remaining \$10,000 can be canceled or moved toward the Municipal Building renovations. Merz asked about the use of the range by other entities and the environmental issues. Yocum said there is very limited use by other groups. Leach said occasionally the Prosecutor's Office or the Sheriff's Department use the range. Dunham commented on continued use if there is an environmental problem. Leach said he will have the Chief write the Council a report.

Jefferson Highlights Remove/Re-Appropriate \$2,500.00

Leach said this budget also included \$2,500 for Jefferson Highlights. Leach said Jefferson Highlights now has a balance of \$27,000 that has not been expended. Money is received every year from Cablevision and there was a reimbursement from insurance for vandalism a few years ago. Eagen said major upgrades were scheduled. Leach suggested removing the \$2,500 this year. Yocum suggested asking Bonito if this money is necessary. Dunham said the money should be removed unless there is a logical reason for the funds.

Yocum asked for the status on the Police vehicles. Leach said that they were ordered. Dunham asked if there is a way that the DPW vehicles order can be expedited. Leach said that the Mayor would like the specs written for all the items in the capital budget so as soon as the capital budget is passed and the 45 day period is up, then the items can be bid.

Yocum asked about the Dial-a-Ride vehicle and Leach explained the vehicle will replace older fleet vehicles that are passed down. Yocum asked about the percentage of rides that contain one passenger. Rhinesmith said the program administrator is working to combine trips. Rhinesmith explained that to use the Dial-a-Ride service, to be eligible a person must be either disabled or a senior. All those who use the service are pre-screened and prove eligibility. Rhinesmith commented that the Dial-a-Ride program has saved lives because the coordinator and drivers know the routine of the passengers and have had occasion to call for assistance when a passenger falls out of that routine.

Budget Calendar

Leach commented that the reserves are down about \$140,000. Leach said 2014 looks like a good year for surplus. Birmingham asked about the tax appeals for this year. Leach said last year the Oak Ridge Plaza was a large appeal. Eagen said this year the largest concern is the Newark Watershed appeal. Dunham asked how much money is received in taxes from the watershed and Eagen said about \$192,000 in offset aid. Leach said the property is assessed at \$5,000 an acre and they are looking for \$1,500. Eagen said the Oak Ridge Plaza Tax Refund for 2 years was \$70,000-\$80,000. This will be added to the Reserve for Tax Appeals as an add on. Eagen said he will be providing the Council with a list of some budget changes from the Preliminary Budget. Eagen said to keep in mind that if Newark settles, the Oak Ridge appeal can be added and an Emergency can be done to spread out the payout over multiple years.

Eagen said he will put the final numbers together. In the past, there has been a working meeting, with the numbers being introduced by Ferraioli and the next meeting the Council will have the Budget Introduction. The Council set the meeting with Ferraioli for April 3 and the Budget Introduction for April 17.

Leach reported that he attended the Watershed Coalition meeting yesterday. One of the problems is that there is no way to assess watershed lands. Leach said there was discussion about imposing a water tax and using the tax to compensate the tax for the lost value of the watershed lands. Leach said years ago, the State purchased the development rights from Newark, then the watershed towns were compensated \$65 per acre indexed through inflation up to \$78 per acre. However, eventually, the money stopped. When the Highlands Act was passed, the amount was set at \$45 per acre. Recently, that was almost cut from the State budget. Leach said that he, along with the Mayor of West Milford and the Manager of Hardyston testified

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

March 20, 2013

29

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

before the Budget Committee to have the \$45 an acre restored. Senator Bob Smith is trying to install a water tax to replenish the Green Acres/Open Space Fund. The environmental groups are supporting this water tax. Leach said he is not happy about the idea of a water tax where the money is supposed to go to the Watershed towns because the State will take the money like the Gross Franchise Utility Tax. Leach said that after the development rights were taken away, Newark began the massive tax appeals. The Judge said that watershed land cannot be taxed like other lands. Leach said it is his hope that the Coalition goes in the direction of challenging the laws pertaining to the method for taxing watershed lands. If it is property tax, the town assesses it and collects the money. Yocum said the other side of hosting watershed property is that the town has beautiful, unspoiled land that most likely will stay preserved forever. Leach said that Newark also sells the water for a profit. Leach said he is happy the watershed is there, it is pristine. Leach said West Milford's attorney agrees that the correct way to assess watershed land is important and the more easily remedied.

Eagen said this year the Budget is up \$728,000 from last year. Last year's budget was at \$1.8 and this year it is \$2.5. Leach said that this year equipment must be purchased. Leach said the debt ratio is .6 so it is less than 1 percent. Dunham asked about monies from projects from previous years that are sitting in accounts. Eagen said a sweep was done about 3 years ago. Leach said it will be done again by the end of this year.

Recess

The Council adjourned for recess at 5:56 p.m. and reconvened at 6:02 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Proclamation & Resolution: Eagle Scout Connor D. Mastricola (29-A)

Connor D. Mastricola came forward along with his parents. Council President Yocum read the Resolution commending Connor on his Eagle Scout award. Yocum presented Connor with a Township pin and pen. Mayor Felter presented the Proclamation congratulating Connor on the achievement of his Eagle Scout award. Connor received individual congratulations from the Council members.

Proclamation & Resolution: Gold Award to Darianne Mastricola (29-B)

Darianne Mastricola came forward along with her parents. Council President Yocum read the Resolution recognizing her on receiving her Gold Award. Yocum presented Darianne with a Township pin and pen. Mayor Felter presented the Proclamation congratulating Darianne on the achievement of her Gold Award. Darianne received individual congratulations from the Council members.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

February 27, 2013 Budget/Regular All Members Present

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Public Hearing Upon Adoption On Second Reading And Final Hearing:

ORDINANCE #2-13: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT" AND MORE PARTICULARLY SUBSECTION 7-37 ENTITLED "DIVISION OF POLICE" BY ADDING A NEW SUB-SECTION E IS OFFERED FOR ADOPTION ON SECOND READING AND FINAL HEARING.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

March 20, 2013

30

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Yocum opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments specific to proposed Ordinance #2-13 and seeing no one come forward, he closed the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Dunham, second Yocum

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

Council Reports

Merz had not report this evening.

Birmingham reported that he attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew Staples.

Dunham reported that he also attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Staples and it was a pleasure to be invited. Dunham attended the Library Board meeting on the 18th.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

Leach had not further report this evening.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

New Business

Resolutions

Resolution #13-22: Temporary Budget Amendment (30-A)

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Resolution #13-23: Appropriation Transfer for 2012 (30-B)

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

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

Resolution #13-24: Resolution to Adopt Surplus Policy (30-C)

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

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

Resolution #13-25: Approval of Bills (remove PO 13-00485 and 13-00616) (30-D)

Motion: Dunham, second Merz

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

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

March 20, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

31

Motion: Approval P O No. 13-00485 Headley Lumber Co. \$110.20
and P O No. 13-00616 Headley Lumber Co. \$564.60

Motion: Yocum, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Not Voting
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye
Vice President Sanchelli	Absent
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #13-26: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda

(31-A)

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

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

Resolution #13-27: Executive Session Pertaining to Personnel: Township
Clerk Negotiations

(31-B)

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Recess

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 7:40 p.m.

Adjournment at 7:40 p.m.

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

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

Dated: March 20, 2013

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President