

# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

## Budget Meeting

March 9, 2011

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

34

### Roll Call

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

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

### Salute to the Flag

Vice President Birmingham asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Notice of Presiding Officer

Vice President Birmingham said, "This Budget Council meeting for March 9, 2011, commencing at 6:30 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 3, 2011."

### Budget Meeting 6:30 p.m.

2011 Municipal Budget

- **Arts Committee – Jefferson Day**

Carol Punturieri and John Focacci came forward. Birmingham stated that the Council has discussed the 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Jefferson Day previously with the Arts Committee representatives and a one-time increase in the town's donation. Focacci detailed the Committee's preliminary plans for the Celebration including professional bands to perform in the evening, the fireworks presentation and President Yocum's suggestions including 2 tents for shade. The decision was made to increase the funding this year by \$7,000 for a total of \$25,000.

Jefferson Day Donation

\$25,000.00

### Habitat for Humanity – Block 317, Lot 6

Leach explained that this Lot was obtained through tax foreclosure on the corner of John Street and Route 181. This lot has been promised to Habitat for Humanity. The HazMat clean up is almost complete. The site plan is complete and a simple motion is needed to go ahead with the filing of the variance application to construct a single family home. The zone is C-1.

**Motion:** Authorize filing Variance Application to construct single family home in Zone C-1 on Block 317, Lot 6

**Motion:** Sanchelli, second Birmingham

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

### Recess

The Council adjourned at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

### Regular Meeting

#### Charles Ferraioli, Township Auditor, Overview of 2011 Municipal and Solid Waste Budgets

Ferraioli stated that with changes to the Cap and the State Aid, the Township is in good shape. Ferraioli reviewed the Annual Debt Statement. The Township's Net Debt as of 12/31/10 was \$14,857,770; the Equalized Value as of 12/31 is \$3,105,612 for a Net Debt of 0.48%. Ferraioli said the reduction in Equalized Value has a negative effect on everyone this year, in that this year there is less debt outstanding but the percentage is higher because of what is going on with real estate value. Debt is not increasing but the percentage is. Leach commented that when Mayor Felter became

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35

Mayor the debt ratio was a little over 1% and now it is down to less than half.

Ferraioli reviewed the surplus balance. The year started with \$1,648,831; the \$1,417,040 went back into surplus; \$1,100,000 was used in the 2010 budget as revenue; and the year ended with \$1,965,871.

### Water Utility

Ferraioli said the year started out with \$690,127 water surplus; \$74,088 was put back and the year ended with \$369,216. Ferraioli cautioned that the revenue has to be watched.

### Sewer Utility

Ferraioli said that the sewer surplus has dropped from \$96,861 to \$65,926, however, the Sewer Utility is almost out of debt.

### Library Surplus

Ferraioli commented on the new law and said it is still evolving. Initially the law stated that if the funds were over a certain percentage the money had to come back to the town and must be used immediately for tax relief. The law has been amended and the funds that are being returned can now be spread out over multiple years. Ferraioli explained 4 scenarios including no surplus return; followed by \$100,000; \$200,000; and \$300,000 being returned along with the tax rate for each. Ferraioli said he does not recommend using all of the \$300,000 because then in 2012, there will be nothing left. Felter said the Administration has a recommendation for using \$150,000.

Leach commented that a half tax point has to be budgeted in Open Space to receive 50% back from Green Acres. Felter said that a property may be coming up for purchase this year. The property contains flat land and will lend itself to passive and active recreation.

Felter said he would like to thank Ferraioli along with Leach, Eagen, his staff and the two Council Liaisons. Birmingham commented that it was a very difficult year that started off with zero based budgeting and no services are being cut the way they are in other towns.

### Introduction of 2011 Municipal Budgets

**Resolution #11-27:** Authorize Budgets be Read by Title Only to Introduce the 2011 Municipal Budget and 2011 Solid Waste Budget (35-A)

**Motion:** Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

**Resolution #11-28:** Municipal Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2011 (36-A)

**Motion:** Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

**Resolution #11-29:** Solid Waste Collection District Municipal Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2011 (36-B)

**Motion:** Merz, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye

# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

## Budget Meeting

March 9, 2011

36

### Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Absent

### New Business

#### Ordinances for First Reading

Ordinance No. 4-11: To Exceed the Municipal Cap Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45:14) is offered for adoption on first reading with second reading and final hearing scheduled for April 6, 2011

**Motion:** Sanchelli, second Merz

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

### Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Felter commented that OEM is on stand-by and has emergency equipment in place for the upcoming storm. The flooding in the lower Berkshire Valley Road area is as a result of the lower elevation of the bridge and hopefully the new bridge will be raised. The Council discussed FEMA funds due to the Township from previous storms.

### Adjournment at 7:56 p.m.

**Motion:** Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

**Dated: March 9, 2011**

Attested:

Approved:

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Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

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Richard W. Yocum, Council President