

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

39

Roll Call

Present

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

Absent

Arrived 7:00 p.m.

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

Notice of Presiding Officer

Council President Yocum said, "This Budget/Regular Council meeting for April 17, 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 April 11, 2013."

Salute to the Flag

Council President Yocum asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Meeting

Review of Budget Adjustments

Leach advised that he and Eagen have met several times since the last meeting to review the numbers. Leach advised the Council that they were able to remove an additional \$162,000 from the budget. The only other place where additional money can be removed is from the temporary/part-time employees hired for the DPW and Recreation.

Sanchelli said he has heard that with the new health care legislation any temporary/part-time employees that work 30 hours or higher must receive health benefits or the employer will face a fine. Leach said he has attended a few seminars about the new health legislation. The information he received from the seminar was that if the employee applies for health benefits from an exchange, the employer must pay a \$3,000 penalty. Leach said there is a lot of confusion and information right now and no one is quite sure how the law will be implemented. Sanchelli said a few municipalities have enacted legislation proactively to limit the hours of their part time employees. Leach said the part time policy already limits hours. Leach said the Administration will continue to attend seminars and track the correct procedures.

Merz asked if any of the temporary/part-time DPW or Recreation employees are paid out of the funds from the Camp. Leach said the employees who work at the Camp are paid out of the Camp funds. The Parks Department employees are not paid out of the Camp funds. Eagen said that those employees are not directly related to the Camp functioning.

Dunham thanked Leach and Eagen for their work to cut costs. Dunham said he understands about the revenue for the Township being down. Dunham said he does not see why taxes have to go up. Leach said that costs have gone up and some are uncontrollable costs. Eagen said the most volatile costs are pensions, insurance, health insurance. Leach said the town has been proactive with permanently financing bonds while interest rates are low. Eagen said that the proactive stance that the Administration has taken has allowed the town to maintain a budget, within the legal cap, for each of the past four to five years and to continue the level of service for the township without any reduction in services or major reduction in staff. There has been some attrition and reduction in part-time people. Leach said that last year the total salaries were \$9,364,000 and this year there were no reductions in staff and the salaries are \$9,500,000.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

40

Birmingham asked about the savings with the contribution to the health insurance. Leach said that he does not have the 2012 number but this year it is \$156,645. Eagen said last year the health insurance line item was \$2.8 million and this year it is \$3.3.

Sanchelli commented that the Township purchased 2 ambulances and a fire truck this year. Sanchelli said the operating budget is up from last year. Leach said each Department has a Salary & Wage and Other Expenses Budget. When salaries go up, then Social Security Payments go up, this is an O&E or other expense item. Eagen detailed revenue items that were down this year.

Yocum said in years past he has seen money cut from the DPW budget to balance a budget and then the Council struggled for the next 15 years to try to repair roads and drainage to fix the quality of life for the residents of the town. Yocum said it is great to have a 2 percent cap, but there should also be a cap on health care costs, fuel costs and pension costs. The minute the funding is diminished for DPW equipment and fire equipment and in all the areas where services must be provided, the town will have to play catch-up for another 10 years. Yocum said the taxes in Jefferson Township, as compared to other towns in Morris County are low and yet the services have been maintained at a very high level. Yocum cautioned to never look at a budget just for that year because it does not make sense to view the budget in a short term. Leach agreed and said he would like to add that once something is removed it is out forever because of the 2 percent cap and the reduced ratable base.

Sanchelli left the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Dunham suggested cutting the Operating budgets. Eagen explained that there are budgeted fixed costs in the Operating budgets. Leach explained that a few years ago the Council budget committee and Administration went back to a zero based budget. Since that time the Department Budgets have remained the same and do not increase unless there is a specific request made by a Department head.

The Council reviewed individual accounts and asked the Administration if any further funds can be cut to lower the budget increase to \$100 for the average assessed home. Merz asked if additional funds can be taken from surplus. Yocum said if necessary, up to \$100,000 can be taken from surplus to bring the increase to \$100 but more than that is not a good idea. Merz asked the Administration to provide the Council with the Open Space plan and the reasoning for continuing with Open Space when the town has such a large inventory of open space. Merz asked the Administration to consider during budget time next year, looking at open space. Leach said there is a large sum of money in the State's Green Acres fund and if the town does not budget a half point in Open Space tax, the money will be lost. Leach briefly reviewed some possible future acquisitions.

Recess

The Council adjourned for recess at 6:54 p.m. and reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

Regular Meeting

New Business

Discussion: PBA Local 190 – Amendment to Salary Ordinance, Flat Rate for Contracted Police Services

Officer Fedo came forward and presented a memo from the Police Department and Chief Craig regarding an amendment to the rate of pay for contracted police services. Merz said this rate of pay is for Police Officers and outside employment. Merz said this seems fair and based on the number of years since an increase it is worthy of coming back to the Council for discussion. Yocum said it has been five years since a rate increase. Yocum asked Cohen to prepare an amendment to the salary ordinance.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

41

Appointment of Firefighter to Fire Dept. No. 2:

Glenn M. Kozlik and Kyle J. Peter

President Yocum asked the new Firefighters to come forward along with Chief Tovo. President Yocum administered the Oath of Office to Glenn M. Kozlik. President Yocum presented Glenn with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Township pin and pen. President Yocum administered the Oath of Office to Kyle J. Peter. President Yocum presented Kyle with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Township pin and pen.

Ordinances for First Reading:

ORDINANCE #4-13: 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 MAY 1, 2013

Motion: Dunham, second Yocum

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

Introduction of 2013 Municipal Budgets

Resolutions:

Resolution #13-32: Authorize that Budgets be Read By Title Only

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Resolution #13-33: Municipal Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2013

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

Merz made a request that \$100,000 be taken from surplus.

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Cohen said he does not think this is the correct procedure. The Budget should just be introduced and passed. It can be amended before adoption. Yocum said he believes that is the correct procedure. Merz said she rescinds that Motion. Merz said she would like to make the suggestion that to bring this Budget under \$100 increase for the average taxpayer, the Council and Administration look to take \$100,000 from surplus. Yocum said the Administration can look for reductions and revisions in the Budget.

Resolution #13-33: Municipal Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2013

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Resolution #13-34: Solid Waste Collection District Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2013

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
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JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

42

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

April 3, 2013 Regular Meeting Council President Yocum Absent

Motion: Yocum, second Dunham

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

Council Reports

Motion: May 15 Council Meeting location change from Municipal Building to Camp Jefferson, Main Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Yocum, second Dunham

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

Merz had no report this evening.

Birmingham reported that he attended the Library Board meeting. The Board reviewed their by-laws and rules and will be placing them online. Birmingham reported that he attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Vance which was number 76.

Dunham reported that he also attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor and the Library Board meeting. Dunham said the Board is very active with plans and will eventually have to come to the Council for some approvals. Dunham thanked the Administration for all the time and effort put into the Budget.

Dunham asked the Administration for a list of the properties that are part of the plan for open space purchase in the future; the 2013 assessed value of those properties; and the taxes that those properties currently pay. Yocum asked if the Administration can have that report by June. Yocum said that the Council made a decision several years ago to continue to fund the Open Space Trust Fund because at that time there was uncertainty about whether the Highlands Legislation would remain. Yocum said there must be reasoning in the report concerning why money should be put in the Trust Fund when properties cannot be developed because it is a very difficult subject. Leach said he would like the Open Space Committee have some input.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

Leach reported that Fire Official, Vinny Corsaro, has been inspecting the town and there is some concern regarding the amount of wood and debris on the ground following the storm. The areas of concern are fire and the breeding of insects (mosquitos). Leach said he will provide the report to the Council and a release will be provided for the media. Leach said the largest devastated area is the Newark Watershed land with 4400 acres. Leach said there are also large tracts of Township and County land with trees down. Yocum asked that Rhinesmith provide the Council with a report on the impact of the storm on the property at Camp Jefferson.

Eagen commented that he would like to present the request to remove money from the surplus to Ferraioli to see if he has an alternate plan. Eagen said he has a couple ideas to achieve that number without touching the surplus. Eagen said the town's rating could be affected by the surplus.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

43

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

Yocum opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments. Pat Barile of 54 Valley Trail came forward. Barile asked who is supervising the work crews on the PSE&G powerline project other than the crews themselves. Barile asked if the crews are subject to the Township's ordinances concerning work hours, noise, equipment, etc. Barile said the crews work 7 days a week. Leach said the lines must be up and energized by a date in May by order of the Federal Government. Leach said he will contact the town's representative at PSE&G and notify him of the crews' start times on the weekend. Cohen said the town's noise ordinance would apply to the crews construction work. Leach said the heavy construction will be over soon. Leach commented that the town does not even issue building permits for the project, this is done at a higher level of government. Yocum asked Leach to invite the PSE&G representative to come to the Council's meeting in May. Leach said he will have the representative here and he will contact Mrs. Barile.

Yocum closed the public portion of the meeting.

New Business

Outdoor Gathering Permit for OPA Racing, LLC May 10th, 11th & 12th for Offshore Power Boat Races (Police Chief, Health and Fire Official, Marine/State Police Approval pending) (Approval Contingent Upon Acceptable Traffic and Parking Plan with Police Dept.)

Leach commented that this application was filed late and the State Police asked that the local permit be held until the State Permit was approved for the Lake activity. The Mayor, Fire Department and Police will be meeting with the applicant to go over the plan. Yocum asked if the Administration would like the Council to move forward, contingent upon the approval of those plans and Leach said yes.

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

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

Resolutions:

Resolution #13-35: Approval of Bills

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

MOTION to Approve: PO 13-00999 JTHS PTSA - \$1,500.00

PO 13-00998 Terri Tate JTMA Coordinator - \$2,500.00

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

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

MOTION to Approve: PO 13-00900 Headley Lumber Co. - \$36.98

PO 1300913 Headley Lumber Co. - \$391.05

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Not Voting
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget/Regular Meeting

April 17, 2013

44

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Vice President Sanchelli	Absent
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #13-36: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

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

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

Yocum opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments. John Luciano asked about the meeting on May 15 and the location change to Camp Jefferson. Yocum explained that it has been a tradition for the Council to hold a meeting at the Camp and to hold a meeting on the Lake Hopatcong side of the Township.

Yocum closed the public portion of the meeting.

Adjournment at 7:47 p.m.

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

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

Dated: April 17, 2013

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President