

February 15, 2011

The Township Committee held a special meeting on the above date. Mayor Durr called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and dispensed with the flag salute and moment of silence. Roll call was taken showing present: Mayor Lawrence H. Durr, Deputy Mayor Michael J. Hlubik and Committeeman Richard T. LoCascio. Also present were John J. Maley, Jr., Township Auditor and Caryn Hoyer, Finance Officer. Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was noted.

Mayor Durr opened the meeting to the public for comments on matters not appearing on the agenda. Frank VanGelder of White Pine Road asked about the recent reassessment and who was affected. Mayor Durr explained that only a small percentage of homes were required to be inspected, however, the entire Township is affected.

The Committee, along with Jack Maley, went through the proposed 2011 Operating Budget by department and the following comments were made:

- The Assessor's budget will be reduced in the Legal line item.
- \$1,000 will be added to the equipment line item in Buildings and Grounds for a new recorder.
- An explanation will be requested from the Emergency Squad for their increase in radios and pagers.
- LOSAP – Mayor Durr stated that since we are paying \$80,000 per year for a crew to cover calls, the \$10,000 line item for LOSAP may not be affordable in future years.
- The \$12,000 budgeted in Roads for the purchase of a snow blower will be moved to the Capital budget. The Township Engineer and Public Works Director will be asked to provide a projection on when the Township will assume responsibility for areas of Old York Village with an estimate of the equipment that will be needed.
- The CTAA will be asked to come in and explain their request.
- The Community Association derives revenue from the rental of their building and Mayor Durr stated that he does not believe the entire Township benefits from the building. Mr. Maley reviewed their financial statement from last year and stated that you cannot see what their liabilities are but it appears that they are accumulating surplus.
- The Gasoline and Diesel Fuel line items will each be increased by \$2,500.
- Mr. Maley stated that the Township is not subject to the 2% levy CAP as our tax rate is less than 10 cents.
- Mayor Durr stated that he does not believe the Shared Service agreement with North Hanover will be renewed in 2011 so that revenue will be lost and the stipends given to the Public Works Employees need to be removed. Mayor Durr continued that he believes that the Township employees are all good workers and deserve a 2% raise. The rest of the Committee was in agreement.
- Mr. Maley reviewed the statutory expenditures with the Committee. A \$657,000 CAP waiver will be required and the Committee needs to decide what line items will make up that number. Mr. LoCascio stated that it seems reasonable that the Local Finance Board would look more favorably on the request if Police Salaries make up the entire number. There was a brief discussion about going to the Local Finance Board vs. a referendum.
- The \$250,000 Open Space Recreation grant from the County has been inadvertently omitted and will be added to the budget.
- The Capital Improvement Fund currently has enough to fund \$2,580,000 worth of projects. An additional appropriation of \$21,000 will be added to increase the amount to be funded to 3 million.
- On Sheet 28, the acquisition of the Wilkinson and Fuchs properties – the Township has included \$150,000 for each in the budget each year. It has not yet been appropriated for this year. There

is 1.8 million remaining to be paid. This amount could be bonded with other projects from Bond Ordinances 2009-16 and 2009-18.

- Mr. Maley will do an analysis to see if we should bond ourselves or through the Bridge Commission.
- The revenue section of the budget was reviewed.
- Using \$2.3 million of surplus, the tax rate would be 5.3 cents, an increase of 1.2 cents over 2010. On the average assessed house of \$396,472, this would result in an increase of \$26.00.
- \$500,000 will be budgeted in the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.
- Mr. Maley presented a budget analysis with 3 options. In order to balance the budget, without surplus, a much higher local purpose tax will be required.
- It is anticipated that \$400,000 of surplus will be recovered in 2011.

Mayor Durr stated that he feels the Township should give the break to the people that are here now. We shouldn't keep money for future residents. He continued that he doesn't feel the Committee should consider an appropriation to aid the Elementary School as we did last year. He would like to see the final cost for the construction of the school and asked the Clerk to request that from the School.

The meeting was opened to the public for comments. Frank VanGelder of White Pine Road stated that he thought it was premature to say that there will be no appropriation for the school. He does not feel it should be a permanent appropriation but the Committee should wait and see what the school numbers are. He agrees with removing the \$300,000 for the acquisition of property and bonding it.

Bob Schoen of Fenton Lane asked about the disposition of the old school and it was explained that the Township Committee has informed the School Board that we are not interested in purchasing it so it will presumably be auctioned.

Mr. Maley suggested that the 3 year capital program include Public Works Equipment and a new Municipal Building and the Committee agreed.

The Committee agreed to meet at 6:30 on February 24 with the CTAA and invite the Community Association to come in at 7:00 PM.

On a motion by Mr. LoCascio and second by Mr. Hlubik, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie J. Haines, RMC  
Township Clerk