

The Budget Hearing of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey, was called to order by the Mayor at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Levine read the following statement: "In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Budget Hearing of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and by faxing to the officially designated newspapers, a notice indicating that the Budget Hearing would take place in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. on July 25, 2006."

Everyone present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Township Clerk called the roll.

Present: Ms. Eberle, Mr. Levine, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Regan, Ms. Ritchie, Mr. Sumter, Mr. Vassanella (arrived at 7:19 p.m.)

Absent: Ms. Ashley-Williams, Ms. Danile

Also present: Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager and Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Mr. McKenzie to open the meeting for public discussion. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

No one from the public spoke.

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Mr. Sumter to close the meeting for public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Eberle and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Municipal Court

Maryann Nishimura, Court Administrator, presented the Municipal Court Budget.

Mr. Daly stated that Ms. Nishimura would be retiring this fall. He noted that there were no personnel requests and no reductions made to the Court Budget. Ms. Nishimura noted that her Other Expenses budget is \$60.00 lower than last year due to removing the line item of the cleaning of the Judge's robe.

Ms. Nishimura reviewed the following:

- Description of the Court Office.
- 87% of the tickets issued are contested.
- 10 DWI court cases per month
- Volume of cases has increased and her personnel has only increased by one part-time employee
- She asked that the \$60 for cleaning the judge's robe be put back into budget.
- Revenues have increased to \$621,000.00
- Collected \$9256.00 in past due fines
- \$15,000 for Professional Services is needed for Interpreters, also required.
- Video Conferencing is successful and has saved \$25,000 in transporting prisoners from the County.

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding Court, Other Expenses line items.

Engineering/DPW

Thomas Zilinek, Township Engineer/Director of Public Works, presented the Engineering and Department of Public Works Budget.

Mr. Zilinek reviewed the following:

Engineering

- Additional Personnel – Assistant Township Engineer, which would be, funded 50% water and 50% escrow.
- Reduction of Professional Consultants & Specialized Services from \$62,000 to \$32,400. Explained that last year included tax map updates for 2000-2004 and this year include tax map updates 2004 to present.
- Increase in Conferences and Meetings to include funds for new inspector.

Public Works

- No additional personnel requested.
- Streets and Roads increases are largely a result of the increase in gas prices
- Large increase in Other Contractual Items is a result of the deer removals transferring from the State to Municipalities.
- Decrease of \$21,500 in Other Equipment and Supplies as a result of it not being used in FY2006.

Snow Removal

- Increase in Other Contractual Items from \$23,000 to \$62,000 as a result of adding more contractors to reduce the need for more employees.
- Increase in Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories from \$35,000 to \$57,000 as a result of the need for two new plows.

Sanitation

- Township Manager reduced budget to FY2006 due to prior years surplus.

Building and Grounds

- Township Manager reduced Electrical, Lighting & Communication Equipment and Supplies by \$21,000. This line item is for plumbing, air conditioning equipment and supplies. He noted that the Township's facilities are aging and require more maintenance. This is especially true regarding the HVAC systems, which account for \$12,000 of the requested increase. Requested that the Township Manager's reduction be reinstated.

Vehicle Maintenance

- In the future, he would like to look into splitting into two separate line items – Police and Others.

Water

- Township's purchase price and usage is increasing.

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforesaid line items and budgets.

Collector

Carol Langone, Collector presented the Collector Budget.

Ms. Langone reviewed the following:

- Decrease of one personnel position.
- 98.6% collection rate.
- Working with Commerce Bank regarding automated collection – pay-on-line.

Economic Development

Frank Hasner, Economic Development Director presented the Economic Development Budget.

- Reviewed marketing strategies for Township.
- Distributed brochure to aid in luring commercial and industry to Township.
- Reduction of \$3,350 to other expenses budget as a result of prior spending habits.
- In the future, possibility, Efren Dato's salary may be picked up by Hamilton Street SID.
- Reviewed economic successes in Township.

Community Development/Planning/Zoning

Vince Lupo, Community Development Director presented the budgets for Community Development, Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Lupo reviewed the budgets from the following departments: Code Enforcement; Planning and Zoning Boards and Zoning Enforcements. A brief question and answer period followed amongst members of Council.

Tax Assessor

Burnham Hobbs, Tax Assessor present the budget for the Tax Assessor Office.

Mr. Hobbs reviewed the following:

- Change in clerical position to field position.
- Reduction in Profession, Consultant & Specialized Services from \$18,565 to \$14,000.
- Spoke of the Abatement Program.

Finance

Marc D. Dashield, Finance Officer, presented the Finance Budget. Mr. Daly congratulated Marc Dashield and Vandana Khurana for obtaining their CMFO licenses.

Mr. Dashield reported that his Other Expenses Budget is the same as last year. He explained what the Finance Department does and there was a brief discussion regarding payroll methods.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mr. McKenzie, seconded by Mr. Regan, the following resolution was adopted unanimously upon call of the roll:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1-9), Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is of the opinion that such circumstances do exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Franklin in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1 The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters;
- 2 The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Personnel & Litigation

- 3 The Township Council may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the Execution Session.
- 4 The minutes of the discussions shall be made available to the public as soon as the matters under discussion are no longer of a confidential or sensitive nature.
- 5 This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Ms. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Regan and unanimously approved, meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Township Clerk