

# SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

March 25, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date and the meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Fisher. Present: Mayor Fisher, Committeemen Rich and Dale, CFO Carro (8:15) and Clerk Lora Olsen. Also present were Hal Shute, Cathy Urbanski and Jamie Kamph.

In compliance with the Public Meetings Act, Mayor Fisher announced that this Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act with notices faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times on March 19, 2015. A copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The meeting was recorded via digital recording system.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

Revised sheets resulting from discussions between the mayor and CFO were distributed for review. Mayor Fisher overviewed some of the issues for this budget cycle, e.g., a sizeable increase in the pension fund, a reduced amount of surplus available, and, fixed costs such as insurance and debt. There is some offset from the re-financing of the debt and for the building department but revenues are a problem. The amount taken from surplus has been increased to \$250,000 and the take from the Open Space Trust upped to \$500,000 over previously distributed worksheets. An extended discussion ensued over budget revenues and the receipts from delinquent taxes.

When the CFO arrived, he further explained the revenue items; what can be appropriated from the previous year; and, provided answers to issues raised earlier in the evening. He relayed that appropriations have been cut to the bone but revenues are short. Although it won't help this year's budget, there is still the option to borrow the remaining \$300,000 from the \$990,000 that was authorizing previously to cover the deferral situation that will help the surplus situation in 2016. Discussions continued over the use of Open Space Trust funds, the capital fund situation, and the amount to be raised by taxation.

The consensus at the end of the evening was to drop Open Space funding to \$450,000; bring in another \$50,000 from surplus; and, reduce the Capital Improvement Fund by \$100,000 to \$25,000. These actions would incur a 1 cent increase. Capital projects were reviewed and a decision made to bond for a recycle truck and eliminate some requested police equipment. Existing capital ordinances are to be reviewed to see if anything can be cancelled and re-appropriated. The CFO will also check the balance in the capital account to see what would be available to fund the remaining items on the list.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No one came forward.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:35 p.m. on motion by Rich.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lora L. Olsen, RMC  
Township Clerk

APPROVED: April 1, 2015