
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Governing Body Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: January 23, 2018
Time of Meeting: 6:30 pm
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 4

The Special Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Bettina Bieri.

Adequate Notice Statement

Mayor Bieri read the following statement:

Please note that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this special meeting was advertised in the Herald News in its issue of January 21, 2018; copies were provided to the Suburban Trends, the Record and Star Ledger and posted continuously on the bulletin board in the main corridor of the Town Hall and on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Please also make note of all fire and emergency exits - located to the left, right, front and rear of this room - for use in case of an emergency. Thank you.

Agenda No. I

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bieri led all in attendance in a salute to the flag.

Agenda No. II

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Andrena Pegel, Mike Hensley, Tim Wagner, Luciano Signorino,
Patricia Gerst, Mayor Bettina Bieri
Absent: Pete McGuinness
Also Present: None

Agenda No. III

Purpose

Review of the proposed 2018 Capital Budget.

Agenda No. IV

Review of the 2018 Municipal Budget

Mrs. Mageean noted that they invited all the departments that requested capital.

Mr. Ligus, Construction Official – Explained his request for two new vehicles, and he provided the Governing Body with pictures of the two current vehicles; he noted that he has requested vehicles in the past. He explained that in past years, an agreement was made that the department would receive the used police vehicles. He said that the two current vehicles have reached their life expectancy; they need to be retired because they end up at the mechanic's garage every week to have something fixed. He mentioned that the head mechanic said they can't base the vehicle life expectancy on mileage; it has to be based on hours. He expressed that residents are paying for their permits, so the department needs reliable vehicles to get to the inspection sites. The years of the vehicles he wants replaced are 2009 and 2007. Mr. Ligus said he asked Chief Storbeck if they could get a newer vehicle, and the Chief said that their fleet is limited because some vehicles have been in car accidents.

Mr. Ligus said he didn't ask for vehicles last year because they were under a budget constraint. Councilman Signorino asked how many vehicles the department has, and Mr. Ligus said 5 vehicles that are being used daily. Councilman Signorino asked if there was a cheaper option than \$27,000, and Mr. Ligus explained that the price is a State contract. Councilman Signorino said they should think about purchasing more of an economy type vehicle. Mr. Ligus said he is just looking for a reliable vehicle so the department staff can get to the inspections. Mr. Ligus mentioned that the departments work together to find a vehicle to use. Mayor Bieri asked if the inspections were on the rise, and Mr. Ligus said that the inspections have been consistent and steady, and they are busy this year. Councilman Signorino noted that if they are to purchase the vehicles, he would like the most cost effective vehicles. Mr. Ligus said he would like to consult with Mr. Steines and Mr. Hansen, before purchasing any vehicles, to rely on their expertise to recommend the appropriate vehicle. Mrs. Mageean mentioned that they can add an SUV under capital; a car is not a capital purchase and it would have to go through the operating budget. Councilman Wagner asked for the maintenance cost for the past three years, and Mr. Ligus said he would have to get that information from the DPW. Councilman Signorino asked if there was money leftover in the operating budget last year to fund the new vehicles. Mr. Ligus said the revenue last year was \$704,000, in 2016 it was \$471,000, and in 2015 \$441,000; he understands the budget is tight but he recommended starting a schedule to replace the vehicles.

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Mr. Roetman, Director, Community Services & Recreation – Said they submitted seven items and three are for the current year; the other four are projected out for future years. He explained that the two requests for this year are tied to existing grant money; field lighting at Nosenzo Pond, and the Bubbling Springs lake/field renovations to correct the drainage issues. He suggested recognizing the grant money in this year's budget. Councilman Hensley asked how it's safer from the field to the parking lot at Bubbling Springs, and Mr. Roetman explained that there is a crushed stone walkway, and every time there is a rainstorm, it washes away the crushed stone creating an unsafe pathway. Mr. Roetman said the third request for this year is to start replacing the bleachers. He explained that the guidelines have changed over the years, and the Consumer Products Safety Commission guidelines state that there needs to be railings and fence around the bleachers so nobody falls off. He noted that some of the bleachers are older and non-compliant, so they need to be replaced. He is requesting to replace three units in the current budget year. Mr. Roetman said that the cost is approximately \$5,000 for each unit. Mayor Bieri asked if Mr. Roetman had other projects in mind for the Passaic County Open Space grants. Mr. Roetman said, for 2018, the biggest focus has been Nosenzo Pond and getting the pavilion rehabilitated.

Mr. Roetman said for the future years, they have a few small projects; structures and the pavilion on the recreation center property. He noted that the pavilion needs a new roof and he considers it unsafe right now because of its condition. There are two buildings at the front of the recreation property that are used for long term storage, and in order to use the buildings for storage both the roofs need to be replaced because there are holes and leaks in the roof. Councilman Signorino asked if anyone gets use out of the pavilion in the back of Bubbling Springs. Mr. Roetman said the day camp, scouting organizations, and sports organizations use the pavilion, and it also gets used for private rentals. Mr. Roetman explained that a new slide at Bubbling Springs would be an investment to the day camp and the lake, and the slide could potentially bring in more revenue. Mr. Roetman said the Nosenzo Pond pavilion restoration is projected for 2020, and they included it in the budget to provide a ball park figure. It will qualify for Passaic County Open Space funding, and potentially CDBG if they plan to install bathrooms.

Chief Storbeck – Explained that the current 911 phone system is getting older, and they have been spending money to fix issues on it since 2009. The problem is that the system is becoming antiquated and they can't get a maintenance schedule for it. The department is spending \$5,300 a year on time and material. Councilman Signorino asked if they get a new system, would they still have to get updates every year. Chief Storbeck said they received an estimate about a year ago; they do have different plans that come with maintenance contracts which are approximately \$10,000 a year, which includes parts. He noted that they looked at one system that cost \$280,000, and it included a five year 24 hour maintenance contract. He said that the contract they have now is being paid by the hour. Councilman Signorino asked how the 911 phone system works. Chief Storbeck explained that the 911 system with the phones is computer based. When a call is received on the 911 circuit, there is information that appears on the screens; address and caller information. As the system progresses, they could retrieve more information. It ties into their dispatch computer system, and it will forward the call information to the computer dispatch system. It also has the phone recordings, so if someone needs to refer back and review, or if the dispatcher needs more information on the call, they can retrieve the information from a tape.

Councilman Signorino asked if they were to outsource the dispatch system and use shared services would that eliminate the need for a new system. Chief Storbeck said other counties have regional dispatch, and Passaic County does not have a regional dispatch service. He mentioned that he had a meeting with Administrator Battaglia and Mr. DeNova, Passaic County Administrator, in regards to the regional dispatch. Chief Storbeck explained that if their call volume is more than they anticipate they would have to hire additional dispatchers. They would have to be able to dispatch the First Aid Squad and Fire Departments because they don't have the same computer and radio system. Mayor Bieri asked if there is a distinction from a 911 system and regular dispatch system, and Chief Storbeck said yes. Mayor Bieri noted that there would be a time delay if the County was to dispatch 911, and Chief Storbeck confirmed that there would be a delay in the timing of the dispatch. Chief Storbeck said they are looking into the alternatives, to determine if there would be a cost savings, and to see if the County is capable of fully dispatching for the Township. Chief Storbeck noted that Prospect Park is the only town in the County that Passaic County fully dispatches. Chief Storbeck expressed that the 911 calls and dispatch is a significant part of the Police Department's responsibilities; it's a necessity for the department, so they need to start planning for the future because he does not know how much longer the system will last. He recommended starting putting money towards a new system. Councilman Wagner asked if there were grants available, and if the department was accredited, would it open the door for additional grants. Councilman Signorino requested a comparison between West Milford and Ringwood and their 911 dispatch services. Chief Storbeck said that he would get that information and follow up with administration.

Mr. Miller, Supervising Engineering Aide – Explained that he tries to resurface 5 miles a year which is a 30 year cycle, but roads do not last 30 years. In the past four years they have exceeded the five miles. He noted that they just received a grant for Reservoir Road. The 20 year average is 6.4 miles per year, which is a 24 year cycle, and that's where they should be. He requested \$1.5 million this year to plan ahead and take advantage of the oil prices. Councilman Wagner asked what they anticipate in grants, and Mr. Miller explained grants are based on a scoring system; a certain percentage of truck traffic, and the DOT grants are mostly for the main roads.

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Agenda No. VI

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Governing Body adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Moved: Signorino Seconded: Gerst
Voted Aye: Unanimous voice vote
Voted Nay: None
Motion carried.

Approved: February 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted:

Sherry Zbrzeski, Keyboarding Clerk I

MAYOR BETTINA BIERI, PRESIDING OFFICER

ANTOINETTE BATTAGLIA, TOWNSHIP CLERK