
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: January 27, 2010
Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 3

Mayor Bettina Bieri called the Special Meeting of the West Milford Township Council to order.

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 transmitted to the Herald News on January 24, 2010; copies were provided to the Record, Star Ledger, Suburban Trends and Greenwood Lake News 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Joseph Smolinski, Michael Ramaglia,
Robert Nolan, Marilyn Lichtenberg, Daniel Jurkovic, Mayor Bettina Bieri.
Absent: Councilman Philip Weisbecker.
Also Present: Township Administrator Kevin Boyle, Assistant Municipal Clerk Denise Loeffel,
Chief Financial Officer Arthur Magnotti.

Agenda No. II

Purpose

Review of the proposed 2010 Municipal Budget. Mayor Bieri stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss capital requests and to hear from the Township Auditor. She recognized the Township Engineer, Richard McFadden, and the DPW Superintendent, Gerry Storms, who are in attendance to address the Council. She deferred to Mr. Boyle and Mr. Magnotti. Mr. Magnotti distributed information to Council in accordance with requests for same made at the last budget meeting. Tonight's meeting will begin, he said, with the Township Engineer and capital requests for roads and facilities.

Agenda No. III

Review of 2010 Municipal Budget

Mr. McFadden provided the Council with an explanation of the existing road maintenance and resurfacing policy. The goal, as established by previous Councils, is to pave ten miles of road per year. In the current year's proposed budget that has been reduced to 4.2 miles and with funding left over from 2009 the Township could pave seven miles. He stated that, in addition to this funding, the Township received grants for various road projects which will be completed in addition to those funded by the municipality. He reviewed the manner by which it is determined which roads are most in need of repair and how the work is prioritized. He explained that certain road projects are more costly because they include drainage projects and shoulder work prior to resurfacing. He explained that future road projects will likely cost less because the current jobs require the drainage, stone, and paving work that will not be necessary when those roads are resurfaced in the future. He explained that each road project is unique in that low traffic roads last longer than high traffic roads and the drainage and ancillary work is different for each project. Mr. Boyle discussed potential time frames for capital financing to allow for these projects to be effectuated in the year in which the funding is approved. He noted that when capital is not funded until after budget adoption, it is often too late to get the work done in that calendar year. Councilman Jurkovic asked if it would be logical to engage in storm drain and basin work rather than the more expensive road paving. Mr. McFadden stated that he has concerns about cutting the road work too severely as the Township will be unable to catch up in the future. Additionally, the Township's costs to patch those roads that are not repaired will increase with each succeeding year. Mr. Storms agreed adding that maintenance will be seriously and adversely affected if the road paving program is cut too drastically. Discussion ensued about debt service and the cost incurred by the taxpayers for these projects. Mr. Magnotti stated that the proposed down payment for this year's road paving projects is significantly less than in prior years. Mr. McFadden stated that every effort is made to expend capital funds in the year in which they are appropriated. However, this is not always possible especially when the budget is adopted later in the year. He reviewed the priority mechanism in place to determine which roads need repair and he stated that roads that experience ice and drainage problems are a priority. He advised that his department receives a steady stream of calls from residents who follow up to see when their roads will be scheduled. Most residents are pleased when they learn that their particular street is moving up on the priority list. Discussion ensued about time frames, procedures, specific projects and reducing the road paving projects to 1.7 miles this year. Mr. McFadden reviewed those projects for which the Township has received grant funding including Cahill Cross Road and Westbrook. Mayor Bieri cautioned about cutting the road program too drastically stating that residents expect to have good roads as part of their taxes. She recalled that prior Council's made decisions that adversely affected continuity in road projects and maintenance. She urged Council to prioritize capital projects before cutting road programs. Councilman Jurkovic disagreed stating that the Council should made determinations by reviewing the budget line by line and making cuts accordingly. Mr. McFadden stated that, at Council's discretion, the Otterhole Road

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Agenda No. VI

Action Items

None.

Agenda No. VII

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Township Council adjourned the meeting.

Moved: Nolan Seconded: Lichtenberg
Voted Aye: Smolinski, Ramaglia, Nolan, Lichtenberg, Jurkovic.
Voted Nay: None.
Motion carried.

Approved: April 7, 2010

MAYOR BETTINA BIERI
PRESIDING OFFICER

ANTOINETTE BATTAGLIA
TOWNSHIP CLERK