
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: February 23, 2009
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 2

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 February 8, 2009; 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, Marilyn Lichtenberg, Daniel Jurkovic.
Mayor Bettina Bieri.
Absent: Councilmembers Philip Weisbecker, Salvatore Schimmenti, Robert Nolan.
Also Present: Township Administrator Kevin Boyle, Township Clerk Antoinette Battaglia,
Chief Financial Officer Arthur Magnotti.

Agenda No. II

Purpose

Mayor Bieri advised that tonight's meeting has been scheduled to review of the proposed 2009 Municipal Budget. Tonight's focus will be on the Land Use budget which includes building, planning and zoning. She deferred to the Chief Financial Officer, Arthur Magnotti, and the Land Use Administrator, Dorrie Fox.

Agenda No. III

Review of 2009 Municipal Budget

Ms. Fox reviewed the educational needs of the department noting that the budget includes an increase in appropriations for education and training. There are increased mandates from the State for both employees holding certifications and appointees to various boards. Advertising costs are also expected to increase in 2009. She reviewed the requested appropriations for professional services and consultants including legal and litigation for the Planning Board.

In the comprehensive planning budget, Ms. Fox requested \$15,000 for the Township Planner who, with grant funding, will also handle the Highlands conformance. She has requested an increase in printing appropriations because of the upcoming changes to the master plan.

The Zoning Department budget compensates one employee. She reviewed the appropriations for professional service providers and consultants for the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Ms. Fox advised that the appropriations request in the 2009 budget for the Historical Preservation Commission has not increased and she reviewed the requests made for the Environmental Commission. This includes an increase for expenses associated with the annual Autumn Lights Festival.

Mr. Magnotti stated that the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) contained an inaccuracy in the revenue reflected under building permits. There are two philosophies among auditors. Mr. Ferraioli has always included all construction related fees while last year's auditor, Mr. Schroeder, anticipated building permits only. In response to Councilman Jurkovic, Ms. Fox stated that she is working on amendments to the zoning and planning board fee ordinance. She discussed the new process for handling escrow accounts and fees.

Mr. Timothy Ligus, Construction Official, addressed the Council with regard to the Building Department proposed budget. He stated that there are a few changes from last year's budget. The submitted budget included a request for increased temporary or part-time staff. Since the budget was prepared the Township has nurtured a working relationship with Ringwood and the need for this additional assistance is no longer necessary. He noted that 90% of the construction in West Milford is on residential properties and he expects that the workload will be level in 2009. Mr. Boyle and Mr. Magnotti recommended forecasting a reduction in revenue due to the economy noting that many homeowners may delay renovations. Mr. Ligus reviewed proposed appropriations for technical supplies noting that the Construction Department must use state approved forms and these costs are generally related to the purchase and printing of those forms.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: February 23, 2009
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 2 of 2

Agenda No. IV

Public Comments

Mayor Bieri opened the meeting to the public after advising that there is a five-minute limit for each speaker.

There being no comments from the public Mayor Bieri moved to close the public portion of the meeting.

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

Agenda No. V

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Township Council adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

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

Approved: May 27, 2009

MAYOR BETTINA BIERI
PRESIDING OFFICER

ANTOINETTE BATTAGLIA
TOWNSHIP CLERK