
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: July 18, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
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Mayor DiDonato called the Special Meeting of the West Milford Township Council to order at 7:30 p.m.

Adequate Notice Statement

Mayor DiDonato 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 sent to the Herald News on July 13, 2006 and was advertised in the Herald News in its issue of June 16, 2006; 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 DiDonato led all in attendance in a salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Philip Weisbecker, Joseph Smolinski,
Robert Nolan, James Warden, Carmelo Scangarello
Mayor Joseph DiDonato

Absent: Council President William Gervens

Also Present: Township Administrator Richard Kunze, Township Clerk Antoinette Battaglia
Township Treasurer Arthur Magnotti

Purpose

Mayor DiDonato advised that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss amendments to the 2006 Municipal Budget. He stated that the hope is to adopt the budget at the July 26, 2006 meeting. He directed the Council to the information provided by the Administrator and the resolution on the agenda with authorizes amendments to the budget. He advised that action will be taken at this meeting.

Budget Discussion

Administrator Kunze provided a summary of the decisions made to date by the Council with regard to the 2006 Municipal Budget. Councilman Nolan commented that the reductions being discussed tonight were discussed after the budget was introduced. The proposed additions were not included in the introduced budget. Administrator Kunze reviewed the net change to the budget as introduced and advised that the amendment resolution has been prepared in accordance with that schedule. He noted that the Council can make additional changes before taking action.

Councilman Scangarello noted that we are proposing cuts in this year's budget that will require expenditures in future years to catch up on the maintenance and replacement schedule that will be interrupted if we make these cuts. Administrator Kunze confirmed this statement and added that actions taken this year will result in energy savings in future years. He reviewed the proposed additions to the budget and the potential impact on future budgets if we do not maintain a schedule of replacing and/or updating these items. Councilman Nolan asked how many miles, on average, do the police cars log. Administrator Kunze advised that they typically have about 100,000 miles on them when we turn the over about every two years. They are then rotated into the civilian fleet. The Energy Committee will be reviewing this practice to determine if it is the best method of fleet maintenance. We had planned to purchase a detective's vehicle and a patrol car this year. Councilman Weisbecker recommended looking at Impalas rather than Crown Victoria's or to purchase a combination of these makes. He stated that the Impala is more fuel efficient than the Crown Victoria. Councilman Smolinski, noting that he has experience in automotive performance, compared the differences of the two vehicles. He advised that, in a Township of this size, the size constraints of the Impala may be a safety concern for the police department. He advised that it is not wise to push police vehicles beyond 100,000 miles. Trying to extend the life of the vehicle may not be prudent in terms of safety as well as increased costs for maintenance. Councilman Weisbecker stated that he would like to see the budget for police vehicles restored because he does not want to compromise safety. Councilman Smolinski concurred, noting that if police vehicles require too much service, our officers will not be able to patrol. He also noted that our police officers are often our first responders.

Councilman Nolan asked for an explanation of the fire company capital equipment allocation. Administrator Kunze advised that this is a capital program that is funded annually and that we have made the same allocation, with no increases since 1999. He noted that we have requested an accounting of these funds from all the fire departments and that we do need more information from some companies.

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He noted that the Council can place a condition that these funds will only be released upon receipt of the requested information.

Councilman Nolan asked how we generate surplus funds noting that we had a balance of \$4.7 million on December 31, 2005 and, in this budget, we will be reducing the surplus account to about \$840,000. Administrator Kunze advised that the surplus funds come from several different sources and advised that the \$840,000 will be the starting point for this year's surplus. He advised that we will add to that the deferred school tax, the 2005 reserve balance, miscellaneous revenue not anticipated, earnings on investments, and excess taxes collected. Current projections estimate that our surplus will regenerate to slightly above \$4 million by year's end. If the Council wishes to regenerate surplus to \$4.7 million, they will have to reduce the budget by that amount or raise taxes more. He further noted that surplus projections are hard to pin down and are based on the information available at this time.

Councilman Warden instructed the CFO to ask the Auditor about the affect drawing from surplus will have on our rating.

Action Items

Agenda No. V

~ Resolution 2006-257 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE 2006 BUDGET AS INTRODUCED

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2006 was approved on May 16, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of West Milford, Passaic County, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2006 be made:

CURRENT FUND BUDGET

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
ANTICIPATED REVENUES		
1. Surplus Anticipated	3,910,000.00	3,895,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F: Special Items		
Grants:		
Wonder Lake Water System Improvements	0.00	250,600.00
APPROPRIATIONS		
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Division of Administration		
Other Expenses	27,350.00	57,350.00
Division of Treasury		
Salaries and Wages	256,000.00	247,732.00
Veterans Bureau		
Other Expenses	0.00	1,200.00
Division of Police Patrol		
Salaries and Wages	3,922,000.00	3,869,669.00
Purchase of Police Vehicles	0.00	110,000.00
Division of Municipal Disaster		
Other Expenses	23,000.00	26,000.00
Aid to Volunteer Fire Companies (6)	60,000.00	90,000.00
First Aid Organization Contributions	97,000.00	107,775.00
Division of Snow Removal		
Salaries and Wages	200,000.00	157,771.00
Other Expenses	786,000.00	716,000.00
Division of Streets and Roads		
Salaries and Wages	1,437,000.00	1,400,800.00
Division of Parks Maintenance		

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Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Township Council adjourned the meeting a 8:15 P.M.

Moved: Weisbecker Seconded: Nolan
Voted Aye: Weisbecker, Smolinski, Nolan, Warden, Scangarello.
Voted Nay: None.
Motion carried.

Approved: August 9, 2006

JOSEPH DiDONATO
PRESIDING OFFICER

ANTOINETTE BATTAGLIA
TOWNSHIP CLERK