

The January 29, 2005 Special Meeting of the West Milford Township Council was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Joseph DiDonato.

Mayor DiDonato advised that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this Workshop meeting was advertised in the Herald News in its issue of January 10, 2005; copies were provided to the Suburban Trends, The Record, the Star Ledger, 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.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Councilmembers Paul Bailey, Joseph Elcavage, William Gervens, Robert Nolan, James Warden, Carmen Scangarello, and Mayor Joseph DiDonato.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Township Administrator Richard Kunze, Township Clerk Kevin J. Byrnes, Township Treasurer Arthur Magnotti and Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr.

### **Purpose**

Overview of the proposed 2005 Municipal Budget.

Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

### **Overview of 2005 Municipal Budget**

Township Administrator Richard Kunze reviewed the time frame for various aid applications and for the probable adoption of the 2005 Municipal budget in early July.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. entered the meeting at 9:12 A.M.

Township Administrator Richard Kunze advised the Council on the following subjects:

- \* The Cap rate is 2.5%, but can be raised to 3.5% by Ordinance.
- \* Program maintenance/Budget increases
- \* Additional monies for public events & tourism
- \* Solid Waste budget
- \* Revenues decrease anticipated due to cut in watershed aid

The Township Council discussed these items with the Township Administrator.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. advised of the following:

- \* The state of township finances
- \* The stress on multi-year base

Councilman Scangarello entered the meeting at 9:18 A.M.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. continued to review the following items with the Council:

- \* The impact of the Highlands Act and new redevelopment laws in relation to the impact on West Milford
- \* Township debt
- \* Revenue schedule
- \* Interest on investments
- \* State aid
  - \* Green Acres
  - \* Homeland security
  - \* Watershed moratorium
- \* Grants
- \* Capital surplus
- \* Receipt for delinquent taxes
- \* Miscellaneous revenue

Mayor Joseph DiDonato left the meeting room at 10:05 A.M.

- \* Surplus and Garbage district surplus
- \* Added assessments
- \* Reserve for uncollected taxes

Councilman Joseph Elcavage left the meeting at 10:18 A.M.

Councilman Joseph Elcavage returned at 10:22 A.M.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. continued to review the following items with the Council:

- \* Prior year interfund
- \* Deferred school tax

Mayor DiDonato returned to the meeting at 10:32 A.M.

The Township Council discussed Township surplus with the Township Auditor.

Mayor Joseph DiDonato left the meeting room at 10:37 A.M.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. continued to review the following items with the Council:

- \* Anticipated tax rate

Mayor Joseph DiDonato returned to the meeting room with a Cub Scout Group at 10:39 A.M.

Township Auditor Charles J. Ferraioli, Jr. continued to review the following items with the Council:

- \* Tax points
- \* Capital budget

Mayor Joseph DiDonato called a recess at 10:48 A.M.

Mayor Joseph DiDonato called the meeting back to order at 11:06 A.M.

Township Administrator Richard Kunze reviewed proposed budget changes with the Township Council:

- \* Office supplies
- \* Maintenance
- \* General services

Township Administrator Richard Kunze noted that the following items are the cause of two-thirds increase in the proposed budget:

- \* Executive summary
- \* Snow removal
- \* Library cost
- \* Police staffing at 48
- \* Health insurance
- \* Pension increase

Township Administrator Richard Kunze stated that there is a 20.3 tax point increase as the budget was originally presented.

The Township Administrator noted that all programs and services are being maintained. He noted that Greenwood Lake weed harvesting depends on a final agreement with Passaic County.

The Township Administrator commented on the following:

- \* Capital funding of roads, computers and software, personnel requests by the Parks and Recreation department and the Health department
- \* Budget trends
  - \*Tax Collection rate
  - \*Surplus
  - \*Decreasing state aid over the past 5 - 6 years which stabilized last year

The Township Council discussed acquiring more state aid.

Councilman Bailey asked the Township Administrator to project budget impact due to the Highlands Act, inquiring whether we will need a Planning Department for example.

Councilman Elcavage asked the Township Administrator to do a legal cost review and control on same, and the cost of frivolous lawsuits.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Joseph DiDonato opened the meeting to the public who wished to address the Council.

Several residents addressed the Council on matters of concern.

### **Adjournment**

