

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Short, Cullen, Nedd, Walsh, Mayor Tobin, *CFO Lifer,
*Administrator/Clerk Gallets, *Assistant Administrator Burd

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on December 29, 2005 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same date. This meeting is being held at the Washington Township Senior Citizen Center, East Springtown Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent as there were requests.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – Police Budgets – Police Chief Ted Ehrenburg

The Washington Township Police Department presented the O/E budgets for Public Safety which included the following budgets: Police, Police Cars, Prosecutor and Joint Communications.

All presented O/E budgets were tentatively approved. The Police O/E Budget was decreased overall by \$2,709.00 and the Prosecutor O/E Budget was decreased by \$1,800.00. All form IV's were discussed and added to a tentatively approved list awaiting further discussion.

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public.

***CFO Lifer, Administrator/Clerk Gallets and Asst. Adm. Burd left at this point in the meeting.**

At the conclusion of the budget presentation, Committeeman Tobin asked the other Committee members to stay for a short time after the budget discussions were completed for the night. He asked the Committee members for their perception of how the budget review was progressing. Comm. Cullen and Short felt that the discussions of the budget were not being productive because cuts were not being made as we worked with each department's budget. Comm. Walsh felt the discussions were too lengthy. Comm. Nedd felt they were valuable to get a better understanding of what the departments were requesting budget money for.

Comm. Nedd brought up the topic of the amount of the salary stipends that the Committee receives. He felt that the amount of \$1,500 per year does not reflect the value of the Committee members time and effort for the community. He suggested that the salary stipends of \$5,600 established in 1998 be restored. Comm. Cullen disagreed and felt the Committee should not receive any salary. He briefly discussed how the salary was reduced from \$5,600 to \$750 in 2003 and then raised to \$1500 in 2004.

The discussion ranged over a variety of alternatives. Comm. Cullen brought up the overall percentage of salary increases for non-contracted employees and stated that the percentage should be higher than in previous years. No specific personnel was discussed. It was not intended that any final decisions or vote would be made until the Committee met for the public budget meeting on salary, wages and benefits for all municipal employees.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk