

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 6:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

* Comm. Tobin arrived at 7:45 PM.

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to The Observer Tribune and The Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 2009 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.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dianne Gallets, Municipal Administrator explained that we just received a bill for \$600.00+ for a repair of the fire alarm system at the Municipal Building, which is not addressed in any of the budgets. The Township Committee explained that this was a matter of public safety and we had to find the money in the existing budget, and no additional funds would be added.

Ms. Gallets explained that the printer in the Assessor's Office (which interfaces with the County) no longer works. The repairman who came out could not fix it for a \$100.00 trip call and suggested that if it is the carousel, it is not worth fixing. **Dolores Pecorari, Tax Assessor** has found a replacement version that would cost \$449.00. The original cost \$2,000, and is 7 years old. The Township Committee agreed this had to be replaced, but did not appropriate additional funds. They said to find it in her current budget.

LEGAL BUDGET - The Legal budget was discussed in detail and an additional \$5,000 was removed, making the new amount \$140,000.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET – The Township Committee explained that there would be a 5% cut made to all budgets and asked the Fire Department exactly where they would like to have the cuts. They suggested taking the funds out of the radio budget, as they just received a grant from the Federal Government for the purchase of new radios. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the capital requests. The Township Committee kept some items on the list for the Capital Budget tentatively waiting for the final budget.

FIRST AID SQUAD BUDGET – **Hagen Sniffen** explained his budget and answered several questions. He informed the Township Committee that they could take the 5% cut from the "Building Maintenance" section of the First Aid Squad's budget. There was a discussion on various expensive items in the equipment part of their capital requests. There was an extensive discussion of the tough book computers and the need for them. The Squad would also like to have \$60,000 for generators for the two stations so that they can open the bay doors if the power goes out. The Township Committee asked them to look into a smaller unit to open the doors.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk