

The Special Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 6:33P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Kennedy, Tobin, Roehrich, Mayor Short

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Lifer, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd, Assistant Administrator Coppola

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 22, 2013 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 Center, East Springtown Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent, as there were requests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 SUMMARY. **Kevin Lifer** provided a budget summary including the following items:

- \$395,000 for capital is included, anything above that will have to be borrowed
- The budget includes five police cars, reducing that to three would reduce appropriations \$76,000
- \$773,000 for Debt Service is included
- \$395,000 for Capital Improvement Fund is included

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT costs for Municipal Building Server were cut from \$6,800 to \$5,500. A new line item of \$500 is for a hot spot to cover the entire Police Department. Capital requests were discussed. Rewiring of the phone system at the police department may be done.

FIRST AID DISCUSSIONS

Comm. Kennedy stated rather than replace a rescue vehicle in 2014, can equipment from the rescue vehicle be moved to the fire trucks. **Washington Township Fire Department Chief Kurt Wanner** stated that the fire trucks cannot fit any additional apparatus.

Mayor short requested a presentation on a new rescue vehicle request and to get maintenance records from **Scott Frech**.

Each quarter a fire company or the First Aid Squad will be invited to a Work Session for discussion.

Bill Kanen indicated the new ambulance is in-service and that driver training is on going. Morris County will allow access to the police MDT system. The cost will be \$39.99 per unit per month for 8 air cards which equals \$3840 per year. There will be an additional \$1,440 for 3 cards for fire.

Jim Rassmussen indicated they are waiting on a radio installation on the new fire truck and it should be in-service in a couple weeks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSIONS

Mayor Short stated that the Fire Department Budget is flat for the 7th or 8th year in a row.

Kurt Wanner stated that all SCBA (air packs) will need to be replaced in 2017. These were originally purchased with a grant all at one time. The request for VHF radio replacements for truck radios was discussed. This is needed to communicate with Mt. Olive and Tri-County.

Fairmount Chief Pat Avello explained the request for a swiftwater rescue boat and equipment.

Kurt Wanner is confident that more extensive recording of training will improve the ISO rating. Kurt Wanner indicated refurbishing more expensive specialty pieces will preclude replacement.

Pat Avello requested the replacement for a 1993 Pierce Pumper. He stated to refurbish that vehicle, frame rails, the engine, generator and phones would have to be replaced and painting and striping done.

Kurt Wanner stated the new state contracts for fire vehicles should result in lower costs but that will depend on the engine capacity of the vehicles available on contract.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

An additional meeting has been scheduled for March 2, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

ABSTENTIONS: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Deborah A. Burd, Acting Clerk