

February 23, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Docimo. The meeting was advertised in the following manner:

- A. Posting written notice on the Official Bulletin Board in the Township Municipal Building on February 18, 2009
- B. Mailing written notice to The Gloucester County Times and the Courier Post on February 18, 2009.
- C. Filing written notice with the Clerk of West Deptford Township on February 18, 2009

Roll Call:

Mr. Garrison, Ms Szyborski, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Daws, and Mayor Docimo were in attendance for this meeting.

Department of Mayor – Anna Docimo

The Mayor opened the meeting by identifying areas where the 2009 budget has been decreased to date. The Mayor and township committee have decreased their salary by twenty per cent and will not take an increase this year. The Riverwinds management has been restructured by eliminating the positions of Director and accountant. Discussions have been held with the Board of Education to share services and costs. The committee has met with business leaders in the township for their input. The Mayor identified that we have already saved one million dollars and look to introduce the budget on March 17th. The township will replace two police officers and look into a one armed trash truck in the future to affect cost savings.

Police Budget Review

Chief Mangano provided the committee with an overview of current staff in the police department. He identified personnel, equipment, and supplies needs in his budget. Each line item was reviewed and Chief Mangano was able to achieve the ten per cent cut in his operating budget. The chief stated that he would need three new vehicles this year and that he normally purchased five vehicles a year.

Public Works Budget Review

Mr. Phelps also provided the committee with an overview of current staff as it pertained to trash removal, water and sewer projects, recycling, leaf and snow removal, landfill costs, and seasonal employees.

Mr. Phelps outlined his ten per cent cuts in his operating budget and his attempts to reduce overtime. He presented the committee with a line by line review of his budget and the changes that will occur this year.

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Open Meeting to the Public

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public at 8:25 p.m. The public that numbered about one hundred citizens addressed the committee on the following topics.

- Recycling costs and the reason for increases
- The use of windmills in the township for alternative energy
- The request for budget details
- The reason for the local tax rate to increase significantly over the last three years
- Recycling savings and joining the Joint Insurance Fund
- Township Committee benefits and nepotism hires
- Thanking the committee for hiring two police officers
- Cost savings analysis of the budget
- The township's commitment to Riverwinds
- The need to keep budget talks transparent
- The need to have budget documentation for the public
- Citgo tax appeal settlement
- Support of Riverwinds

Each and every question received a response from the Mayor, committee, administrator, or department head. The Mayor stated that the committee will continue to make every effort to reduce the tax rate for the 2009 budget.

Since the public had exhausted its questioning of the budget session, a motion was made by Mr. Daws to close the public portion at 9:45 p.m. and his motion was seconded by Mr. Cobb. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion by Ms. Szyborski to adjourn the meeting received a second from Mr. Daws and an unanimous vote to adjourn by this committee.

Respectfully submitted

Raymond L. Sherman
Township Clerk