

SPECIAL BUDGET TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, January 26, 2013

The Special Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury was held at 8:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Answering present to the roll call were Township Committee members: David Cook, Susan Goetz, Daniel Mulligan, James Taylor, and Mayor Glenn Johnson. Also present were Denise Marabello, Administrator and Director of Finance; and Kathleen Cunningham, Municipal Clerk/Assistant Administrator. Mayor Johnson led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Cunningham gave the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

- (1) Posted on January 9, 2013 on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.
- (2) Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 9, 2013.
- (3) Filed on January 9, 2013 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection, and
- (4) Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Police Budget – Operating and Capital

Chief Rickey Varga and Lt. Frank Dillane presented and discussed the Police Department's proposed Capital and Operating Budget for 2013.

Concerning staffing, the following points were discussed:

- The last time the police department was at the current staffing level was 2001. The call/incident volume in 2012 was 9,619 compared to 6,232 in 2001 at the same staff level.
- A brief history of staffing since 2001 and its impact on the amount of overtime required was covered.
- Overtime for 2012 was in excess of \$232,000. Staffing below minimum of 17 sworn officers results in a huge impact on overtime due to injuries, illnesses and other types of leave.
- Department currently has one officer on modified duty with the expectation the officer will not return to full duty until sometime in the fall of 2013. A second officer is out on leave due to surgery since the beginning of December.
- Police work is a 24/7 operation and due to the reduced work force, it is becoming difficult to staff shifts.
- Personal, vacation and drop days were denied and rescinded in December 2012 due to the inability to provide coverage for shifts.
- The loss of another officer for any extended period of time will have a debilitating effect on the police department.

A schedule of the manpower deployment for the Police Department was provided and discussed with the Township Committee.

The Township Committee unanimously decided to table the discussion of hiring a new police officer until they discuss the tax rate.

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Police Budget – Operating and Capital (Continued)

The Township Committee decided to hold the request for a new telephone system for the Police Station until further research is done. Town Hall also needs a new telephone system and it would be more prudent to replace both systems at the same time. Additional information is required.

Capital Plan

The Township Committee discussed the following items of the proposed Capital Plan for 2013:

- Brainerd Lake Maintenance: \$20,000 (should any monies be needed for any maintenance items) and \$150,000 for 2014.
- Brainerd Lake Dam Improvements: Includes \$7,000 for legal costs and \$700,000 for 2014.
- NJDOT Grant Engineering Costs (Brickyard Road): \$15,000 if the grant is awarded.
- NJDOG Grant Engineering Costs (Historic District): \$25,000 if the grant is awarded.
- Miscellaneous Road Repairs: \$20,000 for the next three (3) years for paving, striping, sink holes (Per Jerry Thorne's request).
- Town Hall Generator: \$100,000. The Township Committee agreed after the last storm a generator is needed for Town Hall.
- Repair Village Park Pavilion Fireplace and Chimney: \$13,400 is presently allocated for parks, leaving a balance of \$7,000 to be bonded for in an ordinance.
- Large Dump Truck with Plow and Sander: Public Works requested \$137,000 for a larger truck for plowing snow. Mr. Jerry Thorne, Public Works Manager, indicated he can manage without the 4 x 4 dump truck this year; however, the larger truck is necessary for snow removal.

Mr. Taylor recused himself from the following discussion:

The Cranbury Fire Company has requested a utility truck (approximately \$400,000 cost). Mayor Johnson explained the Fire Company is currently using an ambulance as a utility truck. In addition, he was told this purchase would be the last piece of equipment needed for approximately ten (10) years.

Mr. James Taylor, South Main Street, a member of the Fire Company, reported the Fire Company recently purchased a water truck with endowment funds because the Township did not have the monies to fund it. The Township purchased a brush truck for the Fire Company, and the Fire Company has indicated they are going to give the Township \$26,000 towards the purchase price of that vehicle.

Mr. Taylor also stated by putting the purchase of a utility truck on hold would severely delay delivery of the truck for almost two (2) years. He reported the Fire Company recently used its own funds to have the fire house floors done at an expense of \$5,000.

Ms. Goetz requested Mayor Johnson check with the Fire Company to see if they can wait until next year for the utility truck. Mr. Cook stated he is comfortable with the requested utility truck if the Fire Company is willing to not request any new items next year.

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Capital Plan (Continued)

Mr. Mulligan cautioned the Township Committee members to be aware how much debt the Township is taking on and the costs associated with these types of items. He stated he does support the purchase for this year and agreed with Mr. Cook about no requests next year.

Mr. Taylor did not participate in the following discussion:

LOSAP

Ms. Marabello reported there are presently 35 members who are eligible for LOSAP. She stated the maximum payment allowed per member is \$1,585.00 for a total of \$55,475.00. LOSAP is based on a point system, and a member must have 100 points to be eligible for the once-a-year LOSAP payment.

Mayor Johnson recommended tabling this discussion for the present time. All members concurred.

Public Comment

The Mayor then opened the meeting to public questions and comment. There was no public comment; the Mayor closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Goetz and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Kathleen R. Cunningham, RMC
Municipal Clerk