

SPECIAL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
February 20, 2010

A Special Budget meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury was held at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Answering present to the roll call were: Township Committee members: Winthrop Cody, David Cook, James Taylor and Mayor David Stout. Mr. Stannard was absent. Also present were: Christine Smeltzer, Administrator; Denise Marabello, Finance Director/Assistant Administrator and Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk. Mayor Stout 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 February 9, 2010 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 February 9, 2010.
- (3) Was filed on February 9, 2010 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.

Ms. Marabello led the discussion and stated she recently was told by the State the Township will be receiving some State aid this year however, she does not know the amount yet. It will be between 0 - \$600,000.

Mr. Taylor raised an issue with the recent memo sent by Chief Kahler concerning his overtime budget being cut and not being able to provide coverage for certain events. Mr. Cody suggested holding off on the three (3) promotions the Township Committee recently approved. Ms. Smeltzer, Township Administrator, was asked to speak to Chief Kahler concerning the "tone" of his recent memo.

Mr. Cook asked Ms. Marabello if this year's surplus will have less of replenishment than last year. Ms. Marabello reported it will be approximately less than \$1-million and reminded everyone of the State's four (4%) percent cap on raising taxes in the future (should the Township Committee make the decision to raise taxes for 2011).

Mayor Stout reminded the Township Committee members that Mr. Benner, Tax Assessor, had recently advised increasing the Township's tax rate due to assessed values decreasing. Mayor Stout asked the Township Committee to be ready to explain to the public why the decision is being made to use surplus to avoid a tax increase for this year. All members of the Township Committee present unanimously agreed to not increase the tax rate for 2010. Mayor Stout also reminded the Township Committee members more surplus will need to be used if there should be no State aid or a lesser amount. The Township Committee members all agreed to send out a letter to residents (once the budget is adopted) explaining the Township's decision not to raise taxes this year however next year's tax rate could go up significantly.

Public Comment

The Mayor opened the meeting to public questions and comments. Mr. Dietrich Wahlers, 33 Hagerty Lane, cautioned the Township Committee members on "falling into the same trap as the sewer" in putting off an increase and then residents are subject to a huge increase later on. Mr.

SPECIAL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
February 20, 2010

Public Comment (Continued)

Walton Caldwell, Hardley Drive, asked how much State Aid was received last year . Mr. Dan Mulligan, Old Cranbury Road, asked if there is going to be pay increases for employees this year. Mayor Stout responded this year's increases will be based on merit only and not everyone will receive an increase. There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public part of the meeting

Mr. J. Burt, Cranbury Neck Road, stated he encourages the Township to send out communications to its residents and asked that information be posted on the Township's web site as well so residents can plan their respective household budgets for next year.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public part of the meeting.

Mayor Stout suggested placing a binder in the Library with budget data and a debt summary for the public as well as posting the information on the web site.

Mr. Taylor reported as the last snow storm was declared "A State of Emergency", the Police have put in for OEM money.

Ms. Cunningham, Clerk, reported Monday evening's meeting, February 22nd will be held in the Large Group Room at the School (behind Town Hall) and Messrs. Cody and Cook will be giving a presentation on the Township's latest status on affordable housing; the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cody and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk