

SPECIAL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
BUDGET MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2009

The 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, Richard Stannard, David J. Stout and Mayor Pari Stave. Mr. Panconi was absent. Also present were: Ms. Christine Smeltzer, Township Administrator, Denise Marabello, Director of Finance and Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk. Mayor Stave 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 December 29, 2008 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 December 29, 2008.
- (3) Was filed on December 29, 2008 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.

The Township Committee discussed various aspects of the proposed 2009 Administrative/Executive Budget: Among the suggestions made were to restrict staff when ordering supplies to only order "vanilla" items (no colored paper clips, etc.) in order to keep costs down. In addition, Ms. Marabello explained several items had been charged to wrong accounts in 2008 and staff will be made to be more accountable this year as far as charging items to the correct accounts. Ms. Marabello was asked by the Township Committee to provide each month a line item Report for the Operating Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously carried, to not increase any of the Township Committee member's (Mr. Panconi being absent) salaries in 2009. Mr. Stout noted this will be the third consecutive year the Township Committee members have not given themselves a salary increase.

Also discussed was doing away with mailing the Township newsletter to resident's homes. Instead copies will be placed in the Library, Town Hall and Senior Room for residents to pick them up. In addition, a suggestion was made to insert in the outgoing tax bills a form to seek e-mail addresses of residents who wish to get the newsletter sent to them.

Chief Kahler discussed and presented to the Township Committee the Police Department's 2009 proposed Budget. He stated for 2009 there were 5,917 Incident Reports, 169 investigations and 244 motor vehicle-related investigations. Chief Kahler reported the average household cost in the Township is approximately \$690/year. He requested new cars (4) for the Department stating two (3) would be unmarked. The 1 marked vehicle would replace the 2005 vehicle and the three (3) unmarked would be for the Lieutenant, Detective and Traffic Bureau. Ms. Smeltzer was asked to contact the State for the 2009 contract lists. Members of the Township Committee suggested investigating if Hybrid police vehicles are available. Also a recommendation was made to see if funds are available in the form of grants for generators for police vehicles.

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On motion by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously carried, the meeting was re-opened for the Public Comment portion of the meeting:

Public Comment

The Mayor opened the meeting to public questions and comments: Mr. Dietrich Wahlers, 33 Hagerty Lane, asked why the Township Engineer's budget increased. Ms. Marabello, Finance Director, explained the Professionals would be discussed at the next Budget meeting. There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public part of the meeting.

On motion by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Public Comment

The Mayor opened the meeting to public questions and comments on those items not on the agenda. There being no comments, the Mayor closed the public part of the meeting.

On motion by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk