

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2024

The Township Committee Budget Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Michael Ferrante, Lisa Knierim, Matthew Scott and Mayor Eman El-Badawi. Dr. Barbara Rogers was excused from absence. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/Director of Finance and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor El-Badawi led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read 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 provide:

Posted on January 12, 2024 on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 14, 2023.

Filed on January 12, 2024 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's website and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Capital Plan -

Police – Lt. DeChiara and Chief Owens discussed requests made within the Capital Budget. All were approved by the Township Committee.

Fire Company – Chief Smith, Richard Zimmer and Jay Taylor were present . LOSAP contribution to Fire and First Aid were approved. Additional money will be put in Capital for repairs to the firehouse.

Recreation – Ken Jacobs, Recreation Director, was present to discuss budget requests which included an all-inclusive playground and pickleball courts. \$100,000 will be set aside for the inclusive playground to supplement the \$300,000 grant. \$375,000 will be set aside to rebuild the tennis courts in Village Park to include two (2) pickle ball courts with noise barriers. The money will be used if a grant is not obtainable.

Parks Commission – Brendan Hanson, Parks Chairperson and Kellie Lavery of the Parks Commission, were present to discuss budget requests. Beautification of the Parks and Chess Tables were approved.

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The remaining capital items were discussed.

Salary Pool – The Township Committee approved a 5% salary pool.

Increases In Operating Line Items – Discussed any significant changes from 2023 to 2024 budget.

Use of Surplus and Tax Rates – The tax rate will remain stable. The use of an additional \$350,000 in surplus was approved to offset the funding of capital projects.

Public Comment – Mayor El-Badawi opened the meeting to the public.

- Jeff Grundy – Mr. Grundy expressed how pleased he was with the contractors who performed the road work on Bunker Hill Road.

Mayor El-Badawi closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion by Lisa Knierim, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Debra A. Rubin

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk