

SPECIAL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
BUDGET MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 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, David J. Stout and Mayor Stave. 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 January 22, 2009 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 22, 2009.
- (3) Was filed on January 22, 2009 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 continued their discussion with Police Chief Edward Kahler the purchase of new vehicles for the Police Department. The Township Committee re-visited the purchasing of hybrid vehicles for the Police Department. Chief Kahler explained one car would be used for the Captain and Lieutenant and one for the Detective as they have overlapping shifts. He stated overlapping shifts will allow the Captain and Lieutenant to work more hours thus providing more time for grant writing, supervision and mandatory training. The purchase of vehicles will allow the Department to achieve a level of efficiency that has been lacking for some time. Mr. Cody indicated the town of Westwood is using hybrids for in-town policing. Chief Kahler indicated his preference would be to have a Crown Victoria and Dodge Charger as they are delivered with everything (sirens, lights, etc.). Mayor Stave asked if there is anything about a hybrid that would be unsafe. Chief Kahler stated he does not know if anything has been done. Mr. Stout stated ordering a Dodge Charger with a V-8 engine would be fine and order a hybrid Escape for the Detective car. All Township Committee persons were in agreement with Mr. Stout. Mr. Richard Kallan, 10 Wynnewood Drive, asked if the Police Department transfers the equipment from the old car to the new car. Chief Kahler responded they do not however; parts are saved from the old vehicles. Later in the meeting the Township Committee decided to have the Police Department use an existing detective car as a patrol car and to purchase one hybrid SUV for the Detective Bureau.

The Township Committee reviewed the Professionals' proposed budget. Under legal there is an amount of \$10,000 for Code revisions. Ms. Cunningham, Clerk, stated the Township's Code had not been updated in over ten (10) years and stressed the importance of municipalities keeping their Code Books updated. She further explained the Police cannot enforce a lot of traffic violations because certain ordinances have not been adopted by the Township. This amount was approved to be "kept at \$10,000" with the understanding Ms. Smeltzer will oversee the project with only important ordinances prepared to update the Township's Code.

The Township Committee discussed increases this year for Township staff. Mayor Stave reported she had recently attended a staff meeting and had expressed to them the difficult economic times everyone is going through. The Township Committee made a decision to give

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only full-time employees a 1 ½% raise and have them give the 1 ½% back to the Township to pay for their health care benefits.

The Mayor opened the meeting to public questions and comments on those items not on the agenda.

Mr. Ken Griffin, 1 Silvers Lane, stated the Township should look into drilling a well for field irrigation instead of using New Jersey American Water as the water source. In addition he stated the Township would save money if New Jersey American Water's services could be used to read second meters rather than using Township staff.

Mr. Richard Kallan, 10 Wynnewood Drive, asked if the assessment percentage is reduced for residents by how much and will the Library's share decrease. Mr. Stout responded the Library's share would not be decreased until the following year. Mr. Dietrich Wahlers, 33 Hagerty Lane, asked if the re-assessment was across the board or only for some. Mayor Stave indicated it was for only some neighborhoods.

Mr. Dave Mauger, 26 Griggs Road, spoke concerning the Route 130 site. Mr. Mauger recommended not moving forward on the site this year to save the Township money given the legal challenges and added other costs associated with starting construction this year would be a depreciation, taxable service contracts and a burden per household on the taxpayers. Mayor Stave stated with the landscape on COAH changing there is no need for the Township to respond at this time (starting any construction).

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public comment.

The Township Committee requested Ms. Cunningham, Clerk, call the State to find out if it is mandatory for door-to-door canvassing to perform a dog census every two (2) years.

On motion by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Cody and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk