

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
BUDGET MEETING
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

STATEMENT

Welcome to the Special Public Meeting of March 6, 2019 of the Township of Washington Township Council. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by the Township Clerk to at least two (2) newspapers on March 1, 2019, and this notice has been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and on the Township Web Site.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your right and through the door on your left. Please silence all cell phones

SALUTE TO FLAG - led by Council President DeSena

ROLL CALL

Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman, Council President DeSena
(Also, in attendance Peter Calamari, Mayor; Robert Tovo, Administrator; Judy Curran, CFO; and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk)

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to open the general public discussion

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Seeing none.

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to close the general public discussion

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

DISCUSSION

2019 Budget-Police Department

In attendance representing the Police Department:

Chief Glenn Hooper, Captain Richard Skinner, Lieutenant John Calamari and Lieutenant A.J. Pecora

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9-01-25-240-110	Police Salaries/other than Chief	FLAGE/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
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9-01-25-240-120	Police – Overtime	FLAG/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
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Crossing Guards is the same crew, the Department will be hiring another one. The Police Department is looking into policy ways within the Department to reduce the amount officers will be selling back, that will be part of contract negotiations. The Records Clerk is a potential retirement, would like to increase the hours, to 5 days, 20 hours per week. It is currently 4 days, 4 hours per day. This will also include a period of transition, it is an administrative position, and the person needs to be vetted. Budget reflects requested amounts, except 110 and 120.

The Police Department has made the request for one full time and one part-time Police Special Officer, this is due to the fact that Washington School has become busier, and there was an incident at the location with a crossing guard directing traffic, which they are not to do, that is why a SLEO is being requested. A Special Police Officer is a fully armed, fully trained, they are about 11 days short of being a fully trained Police Officer. Councilman Ullman spoke of understanding the hiring and promotions process, and the recently introduced Wayne policies. Administrator Tovo explained the SLEO position, what is required, and collectively moving forward with rules, regulations and policies. Council President DeSena spoke of the Charter in this form of government regarding promotions. Councilman Ullman spoke of the Wayne policies, which speaks in depth of testing, and other measures so the brightest and best get promoted. A conversation followed on having a SLEO doing traffic details, walkthroughs and traffic enforcement. A full-time SLEO's salary is approximately \$52,000 per year, they cannot replace an officer, they can supplement, and they are promotable. They are hired as a Township employee, and do follow the Township handbook. After a discussion it was agreed to decrease the amount to \$65,000. Council agreed.

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9-01-25-240-193	Police - Special Officers	Decrease to \$65,000
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Police Stipends are as per Ordinance.

Police Dues Meetings and Conferences is increased due to the fact in years past Department was not allowed to attend to attend conferences, this is a trial year. One-thousand-dollars (\$1,000) of that amount is for dues. A conversation followed on centralizing copier fees. Chairs are needed for Officers, as well as dispatch chairs. The Police Department is working with IT to straighten out the IT room. A conversation followed on the kitchen, upgrading it or leaving it for next year. The insurance money will be looked at to see what amount is left. At this time testing is being done, but all radios do need to be replaced. Trainings are State mandated, some are recertifications, some are not. Chief uniform allowance is contractual and police officer's uniforms are a one-time expense.

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After a discussion, the following line item was increased to \$5,000 and renamed Police - New Hire Medical Expense.

9-01-25-240-280	Police - New Hire Medical Expense	Increase to \$5,000
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Council agreed to \$1,500.

9-01-25-240-410	Police - Oxygen & Fire Extinguishers	Increase to \$1,500
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After a conversation, the following line item was increased to \$1,000 and renamed medical supplies.

9-01-25-240-490	Police - Medical	Increase to \$1,000
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9-01-25-240-560	Police - Other Medical Equipment	Zero out
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9-01-25-240-590	Police – Range Rental Fees	ELIMINATE
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Scheduling software is still being used, it does go under a different line item. The set-up fee was paid out of the Police – Computer Software line item. Maintenance is provided by DART.

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Take off “Website” wording off of line item **9-01-25-244-000**.

Older vehicles may be repurposed for construction detailing, vehicles last four to six years before end of useful life. Currently, the front-line vehicles are no more than two years old, there are four currently that are front line vehicles. Chevy and Ford are redesigning police vehicles in 2020. Each car has own camera system, and there is also an internal file server, strictly dedicated to the patrol car cameras. When a vehicle comes to the parking lot, they automatically download, it is a separate system. Car cameras are currently 5 to 7 years old, and may be a capital item next year. Body cameras will give more coverage, but it is a complicated of when they can be used, when it is an infringement of the victim’s privacy, and the expense issue. The State of New Jersey does not mandate body cameras. Most of the events that the Police respond, they are responding in a vehicle, there is video from the front of the car, camera goes out the back, into the seat, as well as audio on the Police Officers chest. The run rate for the DNS System is \$3,676, and that rate is reoccurring. Councilman Ullman requested the Police Department movement of the new scheduled be provided.

The Police Department portion of the meeting ended and police personnel left the meeting.

There was a five-minute break taken at this time.

Time Noted: 9:03 pm

The meeting was reconvened at 9:09 pm.

2019 Budget-Fire Department

In attendance representing the Fire Department:

Chief Peter Insetta and Fire Department Director, Bill Bilias

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9-01-25-265-120	Fire Dept. Purchasing Clerk	ELIMINATE
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The Chief and assigned delegates are the only members required to attend the Wildwood Convention, and there is reimbursement from the State to attend. The line item entitled "Dues, Meeting & Conferences" (**9-01-265-250**) covers the dues with the Pascack Valley Firemen's Association, \$1,200 - \$1,250 per year. Pagers are not being funded, new radios are coming in. A conversation followed on items being properly coded. Chief Insetta spoke of Ridgewood doing some preventive maintenance, but after several requests no bills were presented, and he is not sure what was done. Paramus and the County was discussed for repairs, but if it is not satisfactory the department will reach out to Fire & Safety. Every year hoses need to be tested and re-certified. Turn-out gear is only good for 10 years. Chief Insetta spoke of the need for bail-out gear, which requires once a year training. The Department will be upgrading the existing gear that was purchased with the special belt-loops, and the harness that is worn underneath. The maximum number of members by law is 60, currently the Department has 47-52 members, the three new members have already had physicals.

CAPITAL - FIRE DEPARTMENT

The engine is this year, the ladder is in 2020. The engine was purchased in 1994, the ladder in 1987, all the tires on the vehicles are up to date. Chief Insetta stated in his opinion the Township could not survive on 3 trucks, and he believes that would affect the Township's ISO rating. Chief Insetta spoke at length of a meeting he has on March 9th with ISO (Insurance Services Organization) who will be coming in to rate fire protection in the Township, if the rating goes down, homeowner's insurance goes up. The organization takes into effect the vehicles, as well as the training records, rules, and regulations. The organization does issue a written report. A conversation followed on having the Risk Manager (Vic Fadini) involved or one of his representatives. Build time for an engine is approximately 10-12 months, soft costs are separate. Anything than can be used from the old truck will be put on the new truck. As has been done in the past, parts will be donated.

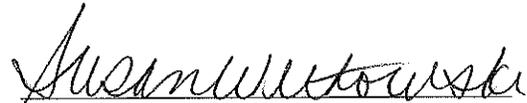
The budget meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 9 has been cancelled and asked to advertise the following Monday and Wednesday.

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Cumming to adjourn.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Time noted: 11:33 p.m.


Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk


Michael DeSena
Council President

Approved: April 15, 2019

The next budget meetings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:30 pm and Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7:30 pm.