

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2018

This Special Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington was held at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex, 350 Pascack Road, Township of Washington, New Jersey.

Council President Michael DeSena called the meeting at 10:00 a.m. by reading the following statement

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The Special Public Meeting 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 September 24, 2018 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 THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Council Members Steve Cascio, Michael Ullman and Council President Michael DeSena. Also present: Peter Calamari, Mayor; Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk. Absent: Ken Poller, Township Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Township Administrator; Councilman Bruno and Councilman Cumming

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Councilman Ullman, Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Absent: Councilmen Bruno, Cumming.

Councilman Cumming arrived at 10:03 a.m.

Councilman Bruno arrived at 10:05 a.m.

William Biliias, 580 Walnut Street – Mr. Biliias is the current Director of the Fire Department. He stated at the Fire Department it is realized that there are quite a few things that need to get done in the Township. The Department is strongly asking for the Township's support for the project at the firehouse, whether it be a new firehouse, which we believe financially is the right way to go, or renovating the current, which he believes is not financially responsible. As an ex-chief, he spoke of coming to previous Council's asking for fire trucks, and studies being done, but now it is time to move on. He spoke of a comment that was made during a Council meeting, that the department is asking for the "Rolls Royce" of firehouses. He spoke of the architect's recommendations during that meeting, as well as the fire trucks, which are larger in size and more expensive, with prices increasing. He spoke of the needs of the Fire Department, such as trucks, proper housing, the increase in Township residents and keeping the Fire Department members safe.

Frank Aiello, 307 Ridgewood Boulevard North – Mr. Aiello stated he has been in the Department there for 11 years. He spoke of the tightness of pulling a truck out of the building, with inches to spare, diesel fumes near the gear rack, holes in the ceiling, and the lack of maintenance. He hopes Council agrees to renovate or build new, something needs to be done.

Pete Insetta, 519 Monroe Avenue, Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Insetta stated he is here due to a comment made about speaking to the Fire Department. Chief Insetta stated the building is 53 and 63 years old, if you look at the initial building, and the addition to it. He stated he did take offense regarding the comment department was designing a “Rolls Royce” of buildings, as well as the comment made by the previous administrator that the department was designing the “Taj Mahal.” He stated this renovation/proposal was prepared by the architect based on a “Needs Assessment.” Anything regarding a new building was to give us an idea of what the cost would be, and there was no specific design plan, there is no “Rolls Royce” or “Taj Mahal” it was based on what we have and what we should have. Regarding the separate office for the Chief, currently the Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief, and himself (Chief) office is approximately 8 x 8 feet, with one desk, one computer, all of the Department files. He stated show me an employee in Town Hall that shares a space like this. The four lieutenants and captains share an office of an “L” shape, 18 x 7 feet, one work station, computer and that also stores department files and equipment. Regarding the bunks and showers, there are many emergency incidents in which the firefighters have slept at the firehouse, normally upstairs on cots, on the floor or in chairs. He stated personally during one storm he slept on the office room floor so he could monitor radio communications. With all the cartigeons released during fires, we all remember 9/11, the firefighters that have died, and are still dying as of today, there is nothing at the building to shower/wash clothes, members have to actually take gear/clothing home with them and take a shower after a call. Regarding the ladder truck and shared services, we are not talking about a garbage truck. If a garbage truck doesn't show up you can call the resident and say we will be there in a few days, but this is a piece of emergency equipment that could potentially cause a loss of life if it is not ready for a response. Show me any town that could say they would be 100% available all of the time to respond to our town for fire calls. Additionally, it was brought up, but nothing was said about how this will affect the town as a whole, specifically the ISO Rating (Insurance Services Organization) which effects insurance rates for residents. Our last rating was in 2013, which was a four out of nine, which is not that good. Emerson spent \$15,000 for a study with Bill Peters company to see if a ladder fire truck is needed, the result being it is. Frankly, it is not going to be a Councilperson that is going to be standing on the front lawn when things go bad, it is going to be the Chief or members of the Fire Department. Currently, we are 100% volunteers, the cost that the Town has to incur is a clothing allowance and contribution to LOSAP, which was approximately \$135,000 this year. His clothing allowance as a Department Head for 57 members/employees, because they are considered employees, is \$4.50 per day to do this, we do not get salary, overtime, benefits, pension payment, training is done on our own time, no additional cost is incurred. He stated he went onto the National Volunteer Fire Council website, which provides a calculator as to how much your volunteer fire department saves a town per year. The spreadsheet compares current members, equipment, and calculates how many paid personnel would be needed to get the same type of service. He stated using Ridgewood's Fire Department paid salaries, which is an average of \$88,000 per fireman, and the personnel needed, a career department would cost \$2,217 per household per year, a total of \$7.1 million dollars annually. He urges the Council and town residents to go onto the site, www.nvfc.org/costsavingscalculators. This is a volunteer Fire Department, is this where you want to start cutting money? He has heard comments made about excessive overtime in the Township, which does not come from the fire department, perhaps we should look elsewhere for

some of these costs. He stated he has printed out some of the things so you can see exactly what he put into the calculator for Council to see.

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

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

Nays: None.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Bruno to approve Resolution No. 18-305.

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

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 18-305

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH DUTRA EXCAVATING & SEWER, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BACK WATER VALVES AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5

WHEREAS, the Township had the need to install backwater valves at five residences in the Township to prevent sewage backups from the Township's Sanitary Sewer Collection System; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Statile, P.E., acting as the Township Engineer, solicited informal quotations from vendors to install said valves; and

WHEREAS, the Contract was awarded to Dutra Excavating & Sewer, Inc., 10 Stone Hollow Road, Montvale, New Jersey 07645 on December 5, 2017 by Purchase Order #17-01376 in the amount of \$8,900.00; and

WHEREAS, after work commenced, it was determined that additional work was required on two residences due to the depth of the service connection resulting in an increase to the original contract of \$14,400.00 for a revised contract amount of \$23,300.00; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Dutra Excavating & Sewer, Inc. is being made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey that Dutra Excavating & Sewer, Inc. is hereby awarded the contract for the install backwater valves at five residences in the Township to prevent sewage backups from the Township's Sanitary Sewer Collection System, in a contract amount that shall not exceed the sum of \$23,300.00, without further authorization by the governing body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Determination of Value are to be placed on file with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be published once in the official newspaper of the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds and the expenditure shall be charged to Account No. 7-01-26-290-650 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief

Financial Officer or her designee, and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Planning

Council President DeSena stated today's meeting is to create a strategic 10-year plan for the Township. He has created a 11x17 spreadsheet, taking the 2018 Capital Plan and offset it for it the next 10 years. He would like to start identifying all of the projects that Council feels are big items. The firehouse, the DMF, three fire trucks, were in the original Capital Plan for 2019, but if the new building is not built, that should be pushed off if everyone agrees. The radio system upgrade was for this year, with three-quarters-of-a-million dollars being spent next year, the proposal was received yesterday and will up for discussion at Monday night's meeting (October 1, 2018). Councilman Ullman stated we have to discuss how Council would like to refinance the BANS, Memorial Field is not on the list. He stated he feels it is fine to identify the Capital Projects, but something that needs to be considered is where Council thinks the Township is going to be in 10 years, the vision as opposed to identifying a spend and figuring out if it can be afforded. Councilman Ullman spoke of a property that is located on a County road as you enter the Township, and if that is something Council may want to spend money on, he feels this is something that may be up for a discussion. He stated there is a piece of property opposite the library, on Schlegel Lake, which is currently underutilized by the current owners, maybe the Township would benefit acquiring that land and providing a park for its residents, something for residents to use that is within walking distance of the shopping center. Council President DeSena replied that can be put on the list. Councilman Ullman asked does Council want to keep the firehouse at its current location, is there other land that in the Township, or is the current firehouse property developable in other manner, such as commercial property or professional offices. He stated there is a list of Capital Projects, that can be prioritized, and we can be done in 15 minutes, or do we want to figure out where this town is going. Memorial Park is not on this list, but it is something that needs to be developed. He stated in prioritizing a list of Capital Projects, we need Ms. Morrone to figure out how it is going to be spent, the impact to the residents. He stated if we want to discuss where this town is going, that is a broader discussion. Council President DeSena stated we are adding the Schlegel Lake property behind the library, and finding commercial property viability. Councilman Cumming asked was a Master Plan being provided to Council or will it be updated. Mayor Calamari stated T&M Associates was hired, the chairperson of the Planning Board did select a few people to work with on the Master Plan, the first meeting will be held sometime this upcoming week. Councilman Cascio spoke of providing suggestions before they get too far along, but he believes it up to the professionals. Councilman Ullman spoke of the need for commuter parking, and properties across from Season's, if that should be on the list and something Council may want to explore. He stated there needs to be a complete vision, versus looking at these projects individually. Councilman Bruno stated he agrees. A conversation followed on the spreadsheet, which is for 2018, and spaces were left to include 2018, 2020 and 2021. Council President DeSena stated the firehouse study was approved for its current location, asking the Ambulance Corps to move there. He feels starting all over again is a delay tactic, since everyone agreed to this study of the firehouse at its current location. He stated that Ms. Morrone had stated the six-and-half-million-dollars in BANS need to be bonded by June 2019, and the list for 2019 is 5.1 million based on budget approval in June of this year, taking that 5.1 million and adding the 6.5 million, Council will be bonding 12 million dollars next year. He stated Council needs to figure out at this point what else is needed to be bonded next year. The DMF remediation needs to be completed by 2021, that is a \$250,000 problem Council has inherited by past administrations. He stated this meeting was not

to add more, but to sit down and figure it out, next year is 5.1 million dollars, and didn't even put down the BANS are due in June 2019. Mayor Calamari stated he went back online, the renovation to the firehouse has been on since 2011, replace the Tower Ladder 41 been on since 2011, DMF started 2013, he feels we have to act on these things, they need to be the priority. These organizations have been promised by Councils in the past for years, to do more studies at this point, where else are we going to put a firehouse, the DMF, in light of the news of the other night, regarding remediation, lets move it to another place, take that building down, after that building is built, they are moved, and it is dealt in a proper fashion. He stated the three main priorities in his opinion are the DMF, firehouse and radio upgrade for next year, that has to do with safety also. This has been promised to our volunteers and workers in the DMF, and it is time to act. The space study for the DMF was done a few years ago, firehouse study was done, and there is no reason not to have it at its current location. Mayor Calamari stated we can further study the rest of the items, but immediate action needs to be taken on some of these items. Councilman Cascio stated he appreciates that input and agrees with Council President DeSena and the Mayor regarding the items that are on this list, they are just perpetually on budgets, and nothing ever gets accomplished. He looked at the list as what is the most beneficial things to improve this Township, and his order is different. He stated the Mayor and Council President met with County Executive yesterday, and to him the intersection is one of the biggest problems in this community. Council President DeSena stated Mayor Calamari and himself met with County Executive and the Chief of Staff yesterday (September 28, 2018), they still have not completed the plans, we will have them within the next week or two, and he has promised us as long as the Township acquires the property that is needed for the project, preliminary timeline of going out to bid is October/November 2019, with construction to start in 2020. Councilman Cascio stated things have been promised in the past, and to him that is the biggest safety concern in the Township, with the Fire Department and Police Department trying to get through that intersection. He stated there have been studies to keep the DMF building here, and there are issues with remediation that was not brought to this Council's attention, and will cost \$500,000 due to not being acted on in the past, due to whatever reason, and that should be number two on the list, to save \$500,000. He stated talking about having a paid Fire Department is ludicrous, it will cost more in one year to hire people than it would be to construct a new firehouse at its current location. He stated the Fire Department has been waiting for major renovation and facility for the longest time, and he apologizes, since it should have been done. He stated those are his three big items, and they are already on the schedule to complete. He stated the newest piece of Fire Department equipment is 12 years old, if the Fire Department is not going to be immediately done, at least new equipment should be bought for safety reasons. He does disagree with Mayor Calamari regarding the radio upgrade for next year, it does need to get done in the next few years, but he would change the order a little bit. He does agree there are things that can be done, and work with the Master Plan to approve the overall scope of the community, but he feels that is something that is not on the radar currently. He feels the following items, intersection, DMF to save half-a-million-dollars at its current site, he does not feel it should be moved, and do something for the Fire Department, whether it is going out to bond for a new firehouse or at least get new equipment. He doesn't want to put the taxpayers in such a bond that we are doing everything at once, taxes will go through the roof. Councilman Ullman stated regardless of what projects will be decided upon, the taxpayers will incur these expenses. We have been in a defer, defer, defer, we have six-million-dollars in BANS, a decision was made based on an interest rate structure that has disappeared, so we were rolling these, the absolute minimum has been paid to pay them down, we have BANS that are 10 to 15 years old, and it is time to pay the piper. Councilman Ullman stated the six-million should be permanently bonded, and any major capital projects that Council decides upon should be permanently bonded as soon as possible, because the interest rate structure is going nowhere but up,

we had another 25 basis points at the last Fed Meeting, they have talked about two more before they even contemplate stopping, so our cost of funding is going up, up, up and we need, regardless of what is decided, we need to permanently bond. He stated the thought of these BANS and this short-term borrowing is like a zero percent interest rate credit cards, it is great, the item is bought, but someone has to pay, and the Township has to pay. Councilman Casio stated he agrees, the time to put something into long-term debt is now, before the rates go up, this is something that should have been done on a regular basis, but he does not want to incur a huge debt to the populous, what is the best thing to be done first. Councilman Ullman stated the proposal of the firehouse, with the volunteer Ambulance Corps is approximately 5.1 million, the DMF building, at its current location with remediation is 2 million, fire trucks are another 3 million in total, bringing it to 10 million, plus 6 million brings us to 16 million. Council President DeSena stated he disagrees with Councilman Cascio on the radio system upgrade, it is something that has been deferred for the longest time, and is a safety issue for the volunteer Fire Department and Police, it needs to be addressed, it has been deferred by Council for the longest time, there are some serious issues with them, and feels it is a disservice to the citizens of the Township if they are not fixed right away. Councilman Cascio stated he will knock off the intersection to number two. A conversation followed on the radios, conversations that have been gone both ways, as well as the intersection, which is something that is not in the control of Council, and has been spoken about in the past. Councilman Cascio stated he urges the administration to get on with land acquisition regarding the intersection, and find out exactly what the Township's responsibilities are and fast track it. He stated he will stay on the Council until that project is complete as well as the DMF, which are major things in the Township. Mayor Calamari stated most of us in the past two, three years have done some major tax cuts for the citizen, part of that was due to the money not being spent, why take the resident's money if it was not being spent. He looks at it now that it was not getting spent, now it is time to spend money, if the taxes need to go up to at least where they were, we saved a few hundred dollars in taxes in the past few years, if we bring those taxes up to where they are, because now we are getting things done, he does not believe the Township's residents mind that, seeing that that the monies were not taken because it was not being spent, at least now we bring them up because the Township does need a lot of work. If rates are going up, let's get a lot of these projects done, why wait another two or three years, when rates may be higher. He continued that it is a bitter pill to swallow that we are in this position, that the Township needs so work much, but here we are. Councilman Ullman stated we also need to be sensitive of impact on our taxpayers, we are capped at \$10,000, he knows he is over \$10,000, as he is sure a good portion of the town is, so when we start talking about increasing taxes, it is not an increase that is a 65% increase, but it is a 100% increase, and there is no longer that deductibility, for the moment. Any time we increase taxes by a dollar, it is a full dollar, not some tax effected increase. Councilman Cumming admires Council President DeSena's summary of the situations, and where we are in the studies that have been done, relative to the firehouse, DMF and so on. He thinks we have a firm report and a good study of the firehouse. He was privileged to be in on the meetings, they were not asking for Shangri-La, they were not asking for a Cadillac, they were given what they needed by experience architects who design many such similar things. He stated he agrees, many of these items have been deferred to a point now, and as Councilman Ullman is pointing out, the fed is raising and it is going cost us more and more. He stated it should have been done for 10 years, we are catching up and hopes the taxpayers understand, our goal has been to keep our taxes level, but we have to catch up with the deferred work and projects for the last 10 years, and he feels we are all in agreement on that. Councilman Bruno stated we actually had two years of tax decreases in 2016 and 2017, a lot of the money was not spent and the budgeting techniques were horrible. He sat down yesterday and sent something out in terms of what he thought would help, he feels we are going around in circles. His first two lines were Identify Capital

Projects, Equipment Needs, Wish List, Immediate Needs, and Prioritize all projects, and he feels that it has not been done, he feels the whole town has not been prioritized. His other comment, which is the most important thing since we are talking about taxes, was to estimate the total cost involved, develop a cash flows, identify available cash reserves, unused ordinances, grants, the school money, what would be used from surplus, because this is all money that was just added up to 10 million, and some of this brings that down by a few million dollars. He stated this is what needs to be done, there is no CFO in place, we are still sitting here going back and forth, there is no financial game plan and what are we going to pass to the taxpayers, this is the cost, the plan, and here is what can be expected in taxes, year one, year two, year three, year four and year five, and he does not believe we are at that point. Council President DeSena stated he disagrees with Councilman Bruno, ten different items have been identified, with numbers being put to them. He stated the Township and Westwood have just passed a referendum for the school of twenty-three-million-dollars, which was a tax impact of \$131 per year, and if we think we are not going to have a tax impact, we are fooling ourselves. He stated he has been here 10 months, these reserves need to be found, knowing we have the million dollars from the school, but we keep on getting hit using these unused ordinances because of things that were not taken care of in the past. He stated we lost \$187,000 for the remediation, and we are going to lose another \$250,000 for the continued remediation and the efforts, along with other liabilities that need to be taken care of from the prior administrations. He stated so far ten things have been identified and we need to put a capital dollar to them. If you take what was put into our 2018 budget, we showed 5.1 million dollars in 2019 that was supposed to be bonded, and if you add the 6.1 million dollars, which will be bonded in 2019 permanently, being at 11.2 without any projects, just the BANS and what the needs are in 2019. Councilman Bruno stated we need to figure out what we need to spend the money on in 2019. What we want to do in 2020, getting a cash flow from Ms. Morrone and what the impact is every year to the taxpayers, then it is a known commodity. We still have millions of dollars sitting in these bank accounts that can be used to offset the 11 million, bringing that down a few million. He stated maybe one year is free if we use some of those monies. Council President DeSena asked what would we like to add in the 2019 list that was not added this year in our budget, he would like to bond the firehouse in 2019, \$400,000 was put into the 2018 budget for the land acquisition along with the soft costs for the intersection, until the land cost is received by the appraiser, we will not know the full amount. He stated soil remediation he would like to see in 2020 along with the DMF building. Councilman Ullman asked if Council President DeSena is looking at the current site or moving the building. Council President DeSena stated he looks forward to hearing Mr. Sarlo's presentation on Monday night, and the pros and cons. He stated one of the items spoken of yesterday at the meeting was the new County facility at New Bridge Crossing and a Shared Service Agreement to get our salt there, which would eliminate the need for the Township to own a salt shed, and maintain salt, and will be cheaper than what the Township buys it for. He would like to see this administration look into that Shared Service Agreement for salt shed, with the location being down the block, along with fueling services, there is a brand-new state of the art fueling station which is open 24/7, and is programmed to a key fob. He stated hopefully Mr. Sarlo's proposal will change a bit in numbers, hopefully we can do some sort of shared service. Mayor Calamari stated also when you fuel up with the fob, it keeps track of when the vehicles need maintenance, sending monthly reminders for maintenance, and we would not have to store the salt, along with the headache of a salt shed, the meeting was very enlightening. Councilman Cascio stated getting rid of the salt shed, frees up a lot of square footage, giving room for the DMF to be built on this piece of property. Councilman Bruno stated his initial thought process, looking at the Bethany Church, was to knock down the DMF building, bring the Ambulance Corps with the firehouse, and use the Ambulance Corps building as an office, and build a shell where the DMF can put equipment, along with it being heated

and air conditioned, saving a few dollars. Council President DeSena stated based on the environmentalist, the building needs to come down in order to the environmental remediation, at this point keeping the existing building is not an option. Councilman Ullman stated but keeping the ambulance building is, the proposals that we saw for the DMF were for housing the entire fleet under cover, which took up quite a bit of space. He stated there was discussion to reutilize the Ambulance building, pivoting the structure onto the Oritani side, having the DMF building located there, creating increase space and increase maneuverability, but if that is not being considered, that should be stricken off the list, a decision needs to be made. Council President DeSena stated no decision has been made Mr. Sarlo is coming in to present the study on Monday night (October 1st meeting). Mayor Calamari stated he would like to correct something, the original space study had it enclosing all of the vehicles, but that was pulled for Mr. Sarlo's report, because everyone decided from that original study there was no reason to store those vehicles indoors. Council President DeSena stated he was looking for the 2019 the addition of the firehouse, he would like to find out what monies are available that has been budgeted for Memorial Field that has not been spent, and do something more at Memorial Field, perhaps lighting or something like that at Memorial Field in 2019 to start, instead of having a huge number later on, maybe the lighting next year, upgrading the sprinkler system or drainage work next year on Memorial Field, do a real Capital Project there or maybe a few Capital Projects there instead of one large Capital Project, there are monies probably in funds from previous years that we can look at. Councilman Bruno stated we have ordinances that say Memorial Field. A conversation followed regarding grass at Memorial Field, aeration and seeding has been done. The grass will be looked at in September this year or perhaps the next year. Councilman Ullman stated he walked it this morning, it is green and there are grass spots, he stated we seem to put the field in the same spot using the same lines, beating the middle of the field all the time. There have been proposals that show the field running on a diagonal, from corner to corner, avoiding the baseball fields, but it has not been put into practice. He spoke of the woodchips being washed away and investing into making it a compliant playground with rubberized surface. Councilman Cascio asked if recreation can be asked to realign that field. Mayor Calamari replied he will. Councilman Cumming stated the continual of the field, and the amount of use it gets, it is tough on it, it is hard to grow a turf. He stated a slip and slide was put in one corner and that area was completely torn out, but we are doing the best we can. Mayor Calamari stated we expect to have an RFP/RFQ ready in the next few weeks to go out for grant writing services again. He stated we are being told there is grant money around for fields, and for fire apparatus, there is nothing available for firehouses or buildings, so we are hoping to defray some of the costs with grants. A conversation followed on surrounding towns getting a grant for firetrucks, and the Township Fire Department now having the right software for statistics that grant writers ask for in connection with the grants. Council President DeSena stated in 2019 we have firehouse and Memorial Field upgrades, 2020 DMF/soil remediation, which is being considered as one project, 2020 is intersection, all costs should have been incurred by that point, with the exception of the Police Department requirements for the construction contractor. Councilman Cascio stated that money is in the budget, the engineer will identify the land that is needed. A conversation followed on staggering the fire trucks, purchasing one in 2019 and one in 2020. Chief Insetta stated there was a discussion, but the Fire Department did not ask for the \$650,000 that was put into Capital, but we spoke about doing repairs so we could offset the time. Council President DeSena asked do we want to get the Engine 44 replacement and hold off the ladder truck until the building is built. Chief Insetta stated we run into the problem of the opening, that is why we discussed holding off on the ladder until we had some sort of idea about the building. Council President DeSena stated we go with the Engine 44 replacement in 2019 and move the ladder truck to 2020. Chief Insetta stated he believes it can be done, depending on what shape the truck is in after the repairs, since that is our oldest piece,

built in 1986 and delivered in 1987, that truck has been giving us problems, and we were asking for Mutual Aid, per call, whoever was available. Council President DeSena asked if Chief Insetta would be okay in moving the ladder truck to 2020? Chief Insetta stated he believes that can be done. Council President DeSena stated the County Executive did indicate he has trucks for us to use if we are in a jam, and have used their trucks in the past. Chief Insetta stated we did have an issue with using the academy truck previously due to the shape of the apparatus, we will look at that, but as far as ladder trucks, he does not believe they are loaning any of those out, he believes they only had fire engines, not actual pumpers that they were utilizing. Councilman Bruno stated if we move the truck into 2020, you would order in 2019? Chief Insetta replied yes, you would be looking at up to a year build time, as well as Engine 44. He stated previously we went out to bid, looking at the Texas Cooperative, purchasing directly from them, but the issue with that, if there was any equipment coming it would have to be a separate bid, getting the truck from one, and anything that would be put on the truck, air packs, things of that nature, would have to be separate, from another vendor. Council President DeSena stated we would fund Engine 44 in 2019, with deliver in 2020, and fund the ladder truck in 2020, with delivery in 2021. Chief Insetta replied he can make it work. Council President DeSena stated we are moving the 1.5 million to 2020. Chief Insetta stated looking at the last two trucks that we purchased, monies were put up for a cost savings, purchasing the chassis ahead of time. Mr. Aiello stated between the prepaid chassis and the Houston Galveston project, it was a total of \$80,000 to \$100,000 savings to the Township, but it did not move forward, could not get approval from the previous Mayor, and he believes the same thing is available for the purchase of a truck. Councilman Cascio stated we had spoke about putting monies aside every year for larger projects, so we are not hit with these large expenditures. A conversation followed on inserting a line item for the Fire Department/Major Equipment and putting monies in there every year. Councilman Bruno stated he does not want to lose sight of two things, one is we really need to determine what we want in surplus, because there is a chunk of money there, 3.9 million, along with a million from the school, almost 5 million dollars. Council President DeSena stated he thought we need to keep 1.5 million. Councilman Bruno stated let us say it is two million, this money it has been sitting there and not have a big tax impact, if we all as a team state we want to keep 2.5 million as surplus all of the time, that is fine, then there is still 2.5 million. Chief Insetta stated the number is \$650,000, but that may not be the number it may be lower, in 2003/2004 he is proud to say two trucks were purchased for \$658,000, the engine and the rescue. A conversation followed on Chief Insetta reaching out to vendors and coming up with numbers, including real cost, soft costs, and other costs in the next couple of months before budget season comes so Council has an idea of the numbers. Council President stated in 2021 we need to address Memorial Field, he would like to put some monies in there as a placeholder. A conversation followed on the DMF vehicles, the \$45,000 is the pick-up, the Class 7, that may have been underbid, and may have to be postponed to 2019, \$170,000 was not enough. The DMF has indicated the current fleet they have will be able to handle the Fall and Winter, the Senior Van has been ordered but no delivery date has been set. Mayor Calamari stated he would like to see the firehouse and DMF completed next year, and then maybe roll that into our BANS, and do a twenty-million long term bond that way we are getting the interest rates before an increase. He stated the DMF has waited long enough, and cannot see why both projects cannot be done in one year as opposed to off-shifting them by one year. He thinks the impact the taxpayers would be negligible, the one-year difference, so do both of those projects next year, if the school numbers are anywhere close, the twenty-some-million, the increase is a \$130 or so. He would like to see us roll all of our new debt and old debt into a 20 million offering next year, that is his opinion. Councilman Bruno stated his concern is making sure we have the talent set up to make sure this is done properly, monitored, paid for and reported properly. Councilman Cascio stated if the money is bonded, it does not mean it needs to be spent that year, bond

twenty-million, do the DMF and firehouse, as Councilman Ullman stated you want to keep the rates low, 25 basis points on twenty-million-dollars is huge. Councilman Ullman stated we need our CFO to give us some guidance because we should not be permanently bonding the six-million-dollars with the firehouse and DMF because those two are permanent structures, they have maturity that we can stretch out and minimize the impact on the residents. He stated the six-million we should be looking to pay that off as quickly as possible along with some of these other consumables. Councilman Cascio stated he agrees with Councilman Bruno with the monies that is sitting there, pay our expenses now with what we have, and then the remainder we will have to bond. Councilman Ullman stated he thinks we need someone to tell us that, lay it out for us. He stated the other issue is do we have any thoughts on shared services, and the DMF would be one of them, do we want Home Rule over the DMF, would we consider looking at the DMF and sharing that service with another town, because it might save us in building a new DMF and investing in some of these trucks, is that something we would consider. Councilman Cascio stated he would consider it. Councilman Ullman stated Ms. Plantamura, for all of her comments, she does have a point, Home Rule over all of these items, the Police, the Fire, the DMF, and every other Department, from top to bottom in a town, results in quite a bit of overlap, quite a bit of duplication, and should we be looking at this, we are speaking of quite a bit of money. He stated if we are serious about looking at the town, serious about doing the best interest, not only for the employees, but for our volunteers and residents, is shared service at some level to be considered. He stated we took a low hanging fruit, that was presented last week in the Closed Session or do we want Home Rule over everything. Councilman Cascio stated he in the past with the former Mayor, we had a shared service committee made up of two Council people, Westwood, Woodcliff Lake, Hillsdale, Ho-Ho-Kus attended a few meetings, he would like to ask the administration to restart that process again, talking to other towns and entertaining shared services with the surrounding municipalities. Mayor Calamari stated he says yes, but in addition he understands in the past the Council has the ability to form their own committees to do these types of things, he does support it, but that is something the Council can do without the administration, set up a committee to do this, reach out to the other towns. Councilman Cascio stated he proposes we do that, and asks Councilman Ullman to join him in forming that committee, he would like the approval of the rest of the Council to go ahead and proceed. He stated if we can save any monies through duplicative processes he is in favor of it, Home Rule has its place in some areas, and in some areas it does not. Council President DeSena stated he appreciates Councilman Cascio taking this on, and Councilman Ullman joining him. He asked if these discussions produce the low hanging fruit, as it has in the past, is the Mayor willing to look at it in an open mind, that is not to say "no" to it, as has happened in the past, since that is what happens in our Form of Government, that Council can come up with ideas, but the Mayor can say "no" to them. Mayor Calamari stated he certainly would be open-minded since everyone has been open-minded to the things that he has wanted to do, he would give nothing less than he asks for. He stated just a quick reminder when it comes to DMF, he has heard in the past that a lot of people consider the DMF the 4th leg of our emergency services. The Police, Fire, Ambulance and DMF, are all very resident orientated service, so he would want to have resident input on that, even if it made economic sense, to say it is something the residents are in favor of.

Council President DeSena stated he is in favor of the Committee.

Councilman Cascio would like a roll call.

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

Nays: None.

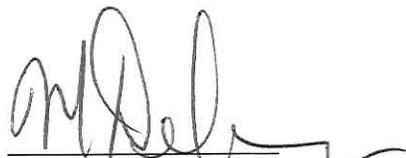
Council President DeSena stated if we update this list (spreadsheet), to show some of these changes, he will have Mrs. Witkowski email it to everyone. He stated he will send the original document out in Excel Format, he will update it based on all the comments we had today, and we can figure out where we want to plug the numbers in and go from there. Councilman Cascio asked if the CFO can come in to discuss how these items will be structured. Council President DeSena stated he will like to have all of the items in place before that is done. Mayor Calamari stated the CFO has indicated to him, as well as other members numerous times, she is happy to do anything, but she needs guidance from us, as a governing body, as to what numbers she would be working on. Council President DeSena stated one of the issues is that we have 6.1 million dollars in BANS, and if we come to agreement to say let's take two million out of the surplus, and pay two million of the worst BANS, eliminate those by using some of the surplus, getting rid of them, and only going out with a 4 million-dollar bond for the BANS instead of 6.1 million-dollars. He stated those are things we need to put on this list, come to an agreement, and present it to the CFO from there. Councilman Bruno stated there is easily 2.5 million-dollars, the question is how do we best utilize that, we need guidance, do we do the BANS, do we not, do we buy a truck, and do we not bond it, there are a lot of ifs, ands or buts, these are the years, these are the amounts, give me numbers and here are the amounts you have to reduce, and give us guidance as to what she thinks would happen. He stated the CFO will have all of the numbers by year, and if we start off and say use 2.5 million-dollars as a reduction somewhere, then she should be able to roll everything out. Mayor Calamari stated yes, and he also thinks she could also guide in the pro's and con's, do we just take that surplus and buy one of the new trucks, or pay off that area. Council President DeSena stated he does not believe we should use the surplus to buy anything new, in his eyes, it has to go to paying off the BANS, because that money was created with creating those BANS so we saved but we banned other things, so we really didn't save, because we have been putting these costs off for so many years, so that money is really a surplus based on the former administrations having those BANS in place, so he would like to see those BANS be paid down with that money, he does not agree with taking the 6.1 million-dollars and bonding it for 20/30 years, he agrees with Councilman Ullman, it should be separate bonds, maybe a short-term bond of 10 years to get rid of the remaining four-million-dollars. Councilman Bruno stated the CFO needs to come back to us, we can also ask Mr. Mai what his opinion is. Council President DeSena stated Mr. Beinfield indicated he would weigh in as well. Councilman Ullman stated in your dialogue with the County Executive about the salt and fueling, where is that located. Council President DeSena stated it is located in Paramus, by the former Bergen Pines Regional Medical Center, the new name being New Bridge Medical Center, less than a mile away. He stated the trucks would go there, the back-up alarms would be there, not in the Township, when they are loading salt in the middle of the night, the gas is cheaper since they are purchasing in bulk.

A conversation followed on having Strategic Planning as Work in Progress on the Conference Agenda going forward, with "Special Meetings" as needed.

Time noted: 11:30 a.m.



Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk



Michael DeSena
Council President

Approved: December 17, 2018

