

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Budget Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2013

The budget meeting of the Township Committee was held on this date at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 211 Route 31 North, Washington, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – The Mayor noted this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975 in as much as a notice has been published in the Star-Gazette and transmitted to the Express-Times, posted at the Municipal Building and a copy is on file in the Clerk's office. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Washington Township Committee before and/or during the scheduled meeting.

ROLL CALL

Finke, present; Horensky, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Dave Evans and John Mooney, Municipal Auditors; Kevin McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer; Chief McDonald; Deputy Chief Thomas Cicerelle, and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Klingel stated a budget was presented at the last budget meeting that was equivalent to a 1.8 cent increase. Since that time, the Township has received information regarding State Aid that is going to allow the Township to reduce that rate down below one cent.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked if the public would have a chance to make comments after the presentations. Mayor Klingel explained this meeting will be a discussion of the State Aid. The budget will be introduced at the March 19th meeting, after which the public will be able to ask questions.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session at this meeting.

2013 BUDGET DISCUSSION

D. Evans explained since the last budget meeting the proposed appropriations have been finely tuned, there is an agreement with the Borough for the Shared Service Agreement for 2013, and the State has released their State Aid numbers for 2013. As a result, the local rate increase is below one cent which is an approximate 1.67% increase over 2012. It represents an increase of approximately \$1.92 per month to the average homeowner. The Township will be in compliance with the State statute if the budget is introduced on March 19th. There will be a public hearing of the budget on April 16th where public comment will be accepted.

Mr. Finke requested D. Evans explain the changes made in more detail. D. Evans explained State Aid was adjusted and the contract with the Borough increased 1% over last year. Mr. Kovacs noted salaries increased 3% and the CFO and Deputy Chief worked to minimize the increase to the budget.

Mr. Willan thanked the CFO for his help in reducing the tax rate and for helping him understand the budget. D. Evans commended the Committee for keeping the increase low.

Mr. Finke and Mayor Klingel discussed the budget being placed on the screen for audience review.

Mr. Finke provided the Committee and audience with a "Comparison of Municipal Tax Rates for Warren County" which he prepared and discussed. Mr. Horensky noted towns with their own Police Departments, the size of the Public Works Departments, as well as the level of services provided by the towns need to be taken into consideration. Chief McDonald noted some towns on Mr. Finke's list have more rateables than Washington Township. Mr. Finke and Mr. Horensky discussed. Mayor Klingel noted municipal bonds should be considered. An Economic Development Committee will be established in the Township this year. The Township would benefit from more rateables.

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Kovacs, to introduce the budget at the March 19, 2013 Committee Meeting.

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Kovacs, yes; Finke, no; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Mr. Finke stated he would like to go through the budget line by line. Mayor Klingel suggested he meet with the CFO. Mr. Finke stated he would prefer to discuss this at the public meeting.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Horensky, yes; Finke, no; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk