

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
March 17, 2015
6:00 pm Regular session

Mayor Zeno called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Mayor Zeno certified that notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Burlington County Times on March 15, 2015. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Township website. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Present were: Council Member John Adams, Council Member Robert Apgar, Council Member Matthew Edson, Council Member Jay Springer, and Council Member Anthony Zeno. Also present were: Township Attorney Eileen Fahey, Kim-Marie White and Township Manager Eric Schubiger.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mayor Zeno acknowledged that the Fire Commissioners were present for the meeting and thanked them for coming out. Mayor Zeno indicated that the Public Hearing on the Fire Budget will be held on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Review of the Fire District Defeated Budget

Township Council reviewed the fire department budget in detail. The discussion included additional information on the fire hydrants yearly maintenance and testing, vehicles, air bottles, radios, turnout gear, capital equipment purchases, obtaining grants, and repairs to buildings.

Township Council asked for the following information from the fire commissioners: both leases, financial statements, spreadsheet with small equipment needed, annual financial reports, 990's for both buildings, current inventory of all apparatus and an accounting of all funds expended or not expended.

Mayor Zeno and Township Council discussed short-term and long-term goals with the fire commissioners. He said a sub-committee should be formed.

Mayor Zeno and Township Council recognizes the valuable service that fire department provides to the township and they need to be mindful how public funds are spent.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Township Manager Schubiger said when the fire district budget is defeated it is the Council's responsibility to look at their budget and provide their comments. He said he was happy that they all got together to discuss the fire budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Patricia White, 3 Prince William Court, said she has been a resident since December 15, 1978 and has many good memories in the Township. She said the tax rate in proportion to what the fire district does for a valuable service that they provide is very low. The local school district 1.145 percent, the local purpose is 0.851 percent and fire district budget for 2015 is 0.070 percent. She said the percentage is very low for what they provide.

John LaPierre, 122 Farmdale Road, said the Rescue Squad was folded into the fire district and since that time the Rescue Squad merged with Westampton. He said that when he was chairman they had a five year and ten year replacement plan on equipment. He said they could also dissolve the fire district and the Township take it over.

Phil Polios, 48 Windham Way, said that Mr. LaPierre was correct that a plan had been put together but when the vehicle acquisition was defeated the equipment was defeated as well and they could not continue with the plan.

Robin Sabel, 19 Winding Way, thanked them for sitting down and discussing it as a whole as it was the first Council to do that.

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by APGAR to add Resolution R2015-49 to the agenda for Closed Session. The topic to be discussed is Matters Related to Negotiation and Attorney Client Privilege Regarding Fire District questions.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by APGAR to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. and proceed into closed session.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by ADAMS to adjourn closed session at 8:12 p.m. and proceed into open session.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

Mayor Zeno and Township Council proceeded to go over the fire departments budget line by line. They had in depths conversations regarding what line items would be reduced.

There was consensus among the Council Members to reduce the following line items.

Administration – Personal - Salary & Wages by \$2,000 and clarification on fringe benefits, which could be some type of insurance premiums.

Administration – Other - Contingent Expenses by \$2,650.

Cost of Operations & Maintenance – Other Maintenance and Repairs by \$2,500.

Cost of Operations & Maintenance Other Operations & Maintenance Repairs by \$5,800.

Cost of Operations & Maintenance Contingent Expenses by \$1,500.

Cost of Operations & Maintenance Misc. Small Equipment by \$22,000.

Council said that there is \$12,000 that references future capital purchase and depending what that is for, the line item could be decreased or increased.

Township Manager Schubiger said he would reach out to the Fire District and request the additional information.

The total decrease in the fire budget would be \$24,450.00 and the amount to be raised in the District by Taxation would be \$279,540.00.

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded ADAMS to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

Kim-Marie White

Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk

Anthony Zeno

Anthony Zeno
Mayor

Approved: May 11, 2015