

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 12, 2007
7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order. Mayor Nagler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag. Everyone participated.

Opening Statement

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 9, 2007. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and sent to the Courier Post for information.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Renzulli, Mr. Tafe and Mr. Nagler

ABSENT: Mr. Hartman

ALSO PRESENT: Township Solicitor Eileen Fahey, Township Manager Scott Carew and Township Clerk Linda Lovins.

Public Comments

None.

Township Manager's Report

The Township has received the paperwork for the green acres money. Township Manager Carew will hand-deliver the paper work so that the township can receive the funds as soon as possible.

The Fire Commissioners have passed a Resolution to take over Fire Prevention Bureau. Dave Wiersma has been appointed interim Fire Marshall. They are working to get the assets to the Fire Department. George Myers was instrumental in obtaining a computer, furniture and cars at no charge to the Township.

Mr. Carew asked if the Township wanted to do something special for him. Councilman Renzulli asked if the Fire Commissioners were keeping George on. Mr. Carew stated that Mr. Myers was let go by the commissioners.

Councilman Renzulli asked if Dave Wiersma was doing both jobs -inspector and marshall? Mr. Carew advised that he believe that was the case.

Councilman Renzulli stated Fire Prevention generally operated break even or generated a little revenue.

Mr. Carew stated that this comes out of CAP and relieves the township of a little bit of a burden.

Mr. La Pierre asked Mr. Carew if the Fire Commissioners could use the Manor House for their meetings. Mr. Carew has no problem with it except that everyone that meets at the Manor House includes someone from Council or Staff.

Manager Carew does not know if he wants to allow people to use the building without supervision from the township. It would have to be an employee and done through the bargaining unit because this person would want some sort of compensation.

If that was agreeable than Mr. Carew would think that Council would want to charge for the use to re-coup the costs of that person.

The building being secure was discussed. Mayor Nagler stated that he does not have a problem with anyone using the building, it is the security of the building that is the issue. Mayor Nagler stated that Council has to look at all angles and bring it up at the next meeting.

Councilman Renzulli stated that unless the township is going to spend money for a janitor it is not feasible.

Manager Carew provided Council with his budget recommendations and stated that he will go into detail next Monday at the budget workshop meeting. The Chief did not factor in the reserve for uncollected taxes on the initial information. The township is still \$16,000 over cap. The one area to affect the CAP would be the Solid Waste Contract. The number that is on the paper is what we are currently spending per month minus the \$2,000 for taking the private roads in house. It does not take into consideration the two options that were discussed by Rob Willis. Mr. Willis is reluctant in forecasting what potential savings would be there.

Manager Carew suggested adopting with the township slightly over CAP and at that time the Township will have the Solid Waste numbers. The vast amount of increases are things that the township has no control of such as insurance, pension and contractual increases.

Last week Manager Carew, Cynthia Fooks, Terry Yates and Kathy Pagano with Westampton to discuss potential shared services. There are some things the recreation committee are looking forward to sharing with Westampton. Manager Carew was told by the members of our recreation committee that there is no need to hand administrative duties over to Westampton Township they feel that the Manager has over-estimated the responsibilities that were being done from this office in the past.

The committee will put together a resume for what administrative services that the township may need. It looks like there will not be an agreement with Westampton and will save us about \$22,000.

Manager Carew, Solicitor Fahey and George Huber of Maple Shade are meeting this

week to finalize the tax assessor shared services agreement. Manager Carew pointed out that this will result in a tremendous cap savings, and a nominal expense savings.

Councilman Renzulli asked if Mr. Renwick loses his tenure. Ms. Fahey stated that he does not. Councilman Renzulli asked if the township did shared services for a year with one township and then decided to enter into an agreement with another township if he would lose his tenure in that situation. Ms. Fahey stated that the township can, at the end of the Agreement, can go with another township if it is a cost saving situation.

Manager Carew reported that there was a safety workshop last Friday through the JIF on office safety. The township is one of two townships that has good ratings to maintain low rates.

Mayor Nagler asked if the squad and fire department are up to date on their insurance. Mr. Carew will follow up on that.

The township has had two worker's compensation claim one from DPW and one from an officer. The ambulance that came was America and the township received a bill from America for \$500.00.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Tafe, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to approve the February 26, 2007 Regular Session and Closed Session Minutes. All voted in the affirmative.

Resolutions

Motion by Councilman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt the following resolutions:

2007-36	Award of Contract for 2007 Road Improvement Program
2007-37	Authorize Application for Recycling Tonnage Grant

All voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Renzulli asked if there are plans to add a couple more roads to the 2007 road improvement program since the bid came in lower than was originally anticipated. Manager Carew stated that the money will be used for Public Works to get the proper equipment and training to properly fix the small jobs in-house.

Manager Carew that Butternut Court will be an alternate.

Mr. Nagler asked about training with another township for the small jobs such as pot holes. Manager Carew stated that if that was to be done it would be on a weekend so as to not overburden either public works departments' daily workload.

Adoption, Final Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance

Mayor Nagler opened to the public. There being no comments, Mayor Nagler closed to the public.

Relative to the ordinance at hand Councilman Tafe asked if by adopting it meant the township was doing going to do this. It was stated that not at this time but they can.

Motion by Councilman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt Ordinance 2007-02 to Increase the Appropriations in the 2007 Municipal Budget by 3.5% over the 2006 Budget in Accordance with Public Law 1983, Chapter 49. Upon roll call vote all voted in the affirmative.

Introduction of Ordinance and Set Public Hearing

This matter is being moved to discussion under new business.

Old Business

Mayor Nagler gave a re-cap of the last Council meeting and re-stated the cuts that were approved at that meeting. The commissioners, after the meeting, via correspondence to the Mayor suggested that the money be reduced as follows \$2,000 architect \$2,000 engineer and \$5,500 toward the building lease line item.

The commissioners are asking the township to approve a 14% increase in the clerk's salary. Mr. Carew stated that if that increase was approved it would be good for moral in the township.

Councilman Renzulli asked what building lease was being reduced. It was stated that it was the emergency squad building.

Mayor Nagler opened to the public at 8:07 p.m.

Laura Fish stated she is a new fire commissioner and as far as she knows the Commissioners are paying the mortgage on the squad building.

Mayor Nagler gave a brief re-cap of the squad property and reminded everyone that the squad received \$40,000 from a private developer.

Manager Carew re-visited the Sharbell/emergency squad easement situation which has been rectified and Sharbell will now in fact be going through the squad property.

Councilman Renzulli wants to make sure that this cut does not hurt the squad. Councilman Renzulli suggested that the solicitor line item be further reduced instead of the building lease since there is no potential for Sharbell to file a law suit for the \$40,000.00.

Councilman Maroccia stated that the Fire Budget is “x” amount of dollars. How they spend it is how they want and we are dictating that. Councilman Maroccia clarified that “so they are going to have to spend where we have to say it.” Solicitor Fahey advised that is the case. If they want to move the money to another line item later in the year they can do that. Councilman Maroccia stated that his main objective is that they cut the \$9,500.00. Solicitor Fahey stated that she doesn’t know what his objective is if it is to cut a certain amount or specific areas. Mayor Nagler reminded Council that this Council is obligated to advise DCA what line items have to be cut. Councilman Maroccia stated it is a positive thing and now we are just micro-managing their budget. Mayor Nagler reminded him that we are micro-managing by law. Councilman Maroccia repeated by law. Solicitor Fahey explained that this is the time to decide how much and from where. She stated that Council can hear from the public.

Councilman Tafe asked if John La Pierre made these recommendations at a public meeting last week when we asked him too we would have said okay let’s move on. I think our object was met. I do not want to dictate with them where they spend their money.

Councilman Renzulli stated that he would agree with Mr. Tafe but he has a potentially bad feeling about cutting money out of the emergency squad line item.

Mayor Nagler feels that cutting \$5,500 from the emergency squad will be putting an undo restraint on the Board.

Councilman Renzulli asked why Council does not leave the original cuts in place. Councilman Renzulli stated that they all agreed upon those and were all happy with those cuts. Councilman Maroccia concurred.

Dave Wiersma, Woodhurst, stated that he had no knowledge of this letter and neither did Mr. Copperthwait or Ms. Fish.

Adam Copperthwait, 120 Dawn Drive. Mr. Copperthwait is one of the newly elected commissioners and advised that today the letter in question was hand delivered to him and that was the first that he saw of it.

Mayor Nagler stated that the public workshop was open to the public and there were no comments at that time. The new commissioners were not familiarized with the newly proposed cuts.

Mayor Nagler stated that the pay raise for the clerk and treasurer is outrageous.

The date of the letter from Mr. La Pierre was March 5. The new members of the fire commissioners were sworn in on March 6. That being the case, the new members in the audience were asked if this letter correctly states the position of the new commissioners.

Dave Wiersma, 13 Woodhurst Drive asked where the cuts were being made. Mayor Nagler advised the following:

\$2,000 architect
\$2,000 engineer
\$3,500 solicitor
\$500 treasurer
\$ 80 clerk
\$1,000 capital budget
\$ 420 building maintenance.

Mayor Nagler closed to the public at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Nagler requested a motion to adopt Resolution 2007-38 Approval of Amended Fire District Budget for Year 2007 with the following cuts:

\$2,000 architect
\$2,000 engineer
\$3,500 solicitor
\$500 treasurer
\$ 80 clerk
\$1,000 capital budget
\$ 420 building maintenance.

Motion by Councilman Maroccia , seconded by Councilman Renzulli to adopt the following Resolution:

2007-38 Approval of Amended Fire District Budget for Year 2007

Upon roll call vote Mr. Maroccia voted aye, Mr. Renzulli voted aye, Mr. Tafe voted nay and Mr. Nagler voted aye.

New Business

Appointment of Ralph Taylor to the Planning Board as Alternate I – Mayor Nagler.

Mayor Nagler asked for the construction official report which has been absent the packets. Manager Carew will take care of that.

Solicitor Fahey explained the new law on marriage and civil union fees. She explained that if you solicit charitable donations that the officiant cannot dictate the amount or which charity.

Councilman Renzulli gave the history and background of what has typically been

done in Eastampton. Councilman Renzulli asked if the ordinance is passed does that mean the money cannot be given to a charitable donation. Ms. Fahey stated that that is the question at the time. Discussion took place regarding people not being able to afford the fee.

Ms. Fahey stated that if the township does nothing there is no fee but a charitable donation can be requested in the amount and to the charity of the applicant's choice.

Motion by Councilman Tafe, seconded by Councilman Maroccia that there be no fee for civil unions and marriages. All voted in the affirmative.

Councilman Renzulli asked what needs to be done next with the Master Plan. Councilman Renzulli asked what the time frame was that Nancy Jamanow will have the ordinances done by. Mayor Nagler will be meeting with her tomorrow and will discuss this matter with her at that time.

Manager Carew was ill last Friday night and not able to attend the basketball game.

Manager Carew went over the state mandates and proposed tax reform.

Joe Fish, 15 Durham Terrace. Mr. Fish complained about signs on 7 Durham Terrace. Ms. Fahey stated that if the police feel that they are a safety hazard something may be able to be done. Mr. Fish stated that the signs are affecting property values. Ms. Fish stated that there are terrorism threats. Mr. Carew will speak to the police department to see if there is any recourse.

Comments

There were no comments.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Maroccia, seconded by Councilman, Renzulli to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Lovins, RMC
Township Clerk