

**TOWNSHIP OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**April 22, 2010**

**Public Invited with Public Participation**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Council President Grossi at 6:33 p.m.**

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Mr. Cesaro</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Mr. dePierro</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Mr. Fox</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Mr. Stanton</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Ms. Grossi</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Present</b>

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Barberio; J. Lim, Business Administrator; J. Silver, Township Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

**PRESENT DURING PORTIONS OF THE MEETING:** Police Chief M. Peckerman; Capt. P. Phillips (Police Internal Affairs); Capt. E. Jasiacki (Police Patrol Division); Capt. M. Kennedy (Police Support Division); R. Malcolm, Chief Financial Officer; J. Walsh, Superintendent, Division of Parks and Forestry; J. Zitelli, Recreation Supervisor; B. Ievoli, Director, Dept. of Human Services; M. Hardie, Purchasing Director

The agenda of this meeting, to the extent known, is as follows:

**Review of the Mayor's 2010 Budget Recommendations**

**FORMAL ACTION MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAKEN.**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law by filing the notice in the Office of the Township Clerk and by posting the meeting notice on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on April 14, 2010 where it has remained posted since that date. Copies of this notice were mailed by fax to The Daily Record, The Star Ledger and various other newspapers and local radio stations on April 14, 2010.

The Township Council continued its review of the Mayor's 2010 budget recommendations.

Mr. Cesaro, relative to the Sewer Utility Budget, which was reviewed by the Council at the April 19, 2010 meeting, questioned the \$3.7 million surplus. Ms. Lim advised that the surplus last year was slightly over \$4 million; we are using \$1.25 million of that amount. Mr. Cesaro questioned if there is anything "hog-tying" the Township from releasing some of this surplus. Considering the state of the economy, he felt that money should be given back to the residents, perhaps, in the form of a credit against their bills. He expressed his view that this possibility should be explored. He stated that since we are getting a new plant, we shouldn't need a large amount of reserve for maintenance of the current facility. He understands that we should save some money, noting that the amount of surplus affects bond ratings, but at this time, the taxpayers sorely need relief. He asked that the Administration consider this proposal. Ms. Lim noted the concerns expressed by Mr. Bober (Acting Sewer Superintendent) relative to the cost (\$4.5 million for an ultraviolet disinfection system) of removing THMs if the proposed solution is not successful. She explained that the Administration was aware that the surplus was growing, but was holding back to address very specific concerns, such as the removal of THMs and the lowering of the limits of the phosphorus discharge by the DEP, which are on the horizon. Additionally, Ms. Lim pointed out that the project will increase the debt service at the Utility, which must be taken into account in the future. Ms. Lim commented that her biggest concern is that the Township would lower rates, but then have to increase rates again. Mayor Barberio confirmed that money needs to be kept in reserve for this major project. Once the renovations are completed, we can consider lowering the rates. He stated that he wouldn't want to risk lowering the rates this year and raising the rates next year. Ms. Lim stated that the Administration could look into what she believes Mr. Cesaro is proposing, a one-time rebate, which would be in the form of a credit rather than a refund.

Council President Grossi asked if the Open Space Fund could be suspended. Mayor Barberio advised that he is looking at reducing the amount collected to ½ cent. Ms. Lim indicated that approximately \$1.6 million is collected each year. \$4.7 million is currently in the Fund. The money, per Mayor Barberio, must be used for open space purposes as specified in the ordinance. Ms. Lim advised that a reduction in the amount to be collected may have to be approved by referendum. Ms. Grossi felt this should be pursued.

Mayor Barberio explained that the Administration did due diligence in cutting the appropriations portion of the budget to 2.9% over last year's budget. However, due to the loss of \$1.4 million in State Aid, the tax levy had to increase to 8.7% over last year. The Mayor explained that this is a very difficult budget. He understands that the Governor has to make cuts, but those cuts really hurt the Township. He commented that he got to a point where the only thing he could do was to reduce services, but he didn't want to drastically affect the services which the Township provides to its residents. He also explained that while approximately \$20 million in revenue was anticipated last year, we only realized \$18 million. This loss of revenue in addition to the increase in the cost of employee health benefits were major factors as well. Mayor Barberio advised that all (white collar) salaries have been frozen. The Police and Blue Collar contracts are still being negotiated. He further noted costs which are outside the Township's control such as retiree payouts and pensions.

Additionally, the Mayor explained that the Township is looking at a 2.5% hard cap next year. If there are no waivers, next year's budget will be a lot worse; layoffs would have to be considered. Other municipalities will be facing similar problems. He is hoping that the State will legislate Civil Service and binding arbitration reforms. His main concern is that, if we have more than six police officers retire next year, we will be way under the minimum, which will create a public safety issue in his opinion.

Once the incinerator is completed, Mayor Barberio advised that there will be an opportunity for additional revenue in connection with the burning of yard waste; he is almost positive that this revenue can go into the general fund. He also indicated that he is exploring shared services with other municipalities. Council President Grossi asked about taking over police services for the Borough of Mountain Lakes. The Mayor noted that he is exploring this as well. He cautioned, however, that while shared services sound good, shared services might not be cost effective for Parsippany, as the larger town.

Discussion ensued relative to the rising cost of the Township's health benefit plan.

Mayor Barberio noted that he is seeking sponsorship for the Street Fair, which was eliminated from the budget, as well as for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks and the Memorial Day Parade.

Council President Grossi asked the Council to consider removing the funding appropriated for attendance at the League of Municipalities' Conference as this, in her opinion, is an extravagance that we do not need. She made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fox. She understands that there are individuals who are able to obtain licensing or continuing education credits (CEUs) at the League Conference, but asked if there are other places they can go to obtain these certification credits. Mr. Fox asked for a list of those employees who would be required to attend for certification purposes. Ms. Lim explained that, other than the appropriation of funds for the Council Members to attend the League Conference, the only funds in the budget at this time are for those individuals who need CEUs. She indicated that the League is the cheapest source of CEUs for Court Administrators, CFOs, Assessors and Collectors and the Township's land use staff, especially since the Township now stays at a hotel that charges only \$80 per night. The registration fee is \$60. For approximately \$200, these individuals are able to earn a tremendous number of CEUs. Full day private classes, as well as some of the League classes, offered during the year cost as much as \$100 for four credits. Council President Grossi indicated that as long as this is cost effective, she has no problem with these employees attending the Conference. Mr. dePierro disagreed in terms of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment members, noting that there are sessions at the League useful for these volunteers who are making decisions on the Township's behalf. It is important that board members, especially new members, stay up to date and informed. Mr. Fox indicated that he does not have a problem with volunteers attending the Conference. Ms. Lim advised that she would have to add the cost back into the budget. Council President Grossi disagreed with Mr. dePierro's position, noting that each board has an attorney who should be providing advice to its members. Mr. dePierro explained that the attorneys do not tell the board members how to vote. Their responsibility is to make sure that the board members follow the land use laws. In order to make informed decisions, the board members themselves need to know something about the land use laws.

Ms. Lim advised that the new members have already taken the required courses; money was appropriated in the budget for this purpose.

**Council President Grossi clarified her motion to eliminate the League of Municipalities' Conference expenses for individuals other than those who need to attend to maintain certifications or licenses. It was confirmed that Mr. Fox seconded this motion.**

Ms. Lim advised that, under contracts with the PBA and SOA, certain officers are entitled to attend the League Conference. Council President Grossi stated that it would be nice if they chose not to attend this year as a show of good faith, even though it is a contractual obligation of the Township.

**Roll Call:**

<b>Mr. Cesaro</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. dePierro</b>	-	<b>No</b>
<b>Mr. Fox</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Stanton</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Grossi</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion passed.**

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT (240)**

Present for this portion of the budget review: Police Chief M. Peckerman; Capt. E. Jasiacki; Capt. P. Phillips; Capt. M. Kennedy

Relative to the Police Salary and Wage portion of the budget, Mayor Barberio advised that he interviewed three Captains last week to fill the position of Deputy Police Chief. He has not as yet made a decision. As of now, no decision has been made as to whether to fill the Captain's position. It was noted that the filling of the Deputy Chief's position will affect the Police Chief's salary. Chief Peckerman advised that this hasn't been discussed with the Mayor as of this time. He pointed out that his salary isn't the most important thing in this budget. It is more important to get that position filled; the details relative to salaries can be worked out at a later time.

Council President Grossi asked Chief Peckerman if he has prioritized the Police Force in terms of future planning. Chief Peckerman advised that the Patrol Division is the priority. Second, is the Investigative Division, followed by what he refers to as the "extras" that the Police Department likes to provide to the community such as Community Policing, our citizens' Police Academy and school resource officers. These and other programs are not required by law, but the residents of Parsippany enjoy them and he would like to maintain them. The Chief reiterated that the priority is the Patrol Division and the Investigative Division.

Mayor Barberio noted the following adjustments to the Police Department's Salary and Wage portion of the budget:

Police Officers Michael Sprung, Brian Conover, Robert Smolen, Jeffrey Magahan, Awilda Curving – base salaries should be \$53,246, not \$46,665.

Police Officer Anthony Morelli – base salary should be \$60,444, not \$53,246.

Public Safety Telecommunicator Thomas Kaiser – delete \$44,190 from budget

Public Safety Trainee Louis Ferdinandi – delete \$15,000 from budget

Council President Grossi asked if Parsippany will benefit from the County's new communications center. This dispatching service is supposed to be free of charge once all of the municipalities are on board. Chief Peckerman noted that the building won't be finished for about three years and, because Parsippany is so big, it will be the last municipality to be approached by the County. Based on what has been discussed so far, Parsippany would not save any money by using the County for dispatch. Additionally, we will still need personnel to enter information into the computer system because the County won't be handling that aspect. If the County could do all the dispatching including the entering of information into the computer system without cost to the Township, we would certainly examine this possibility. Chief Peckerman commented that he doesn't know how the County could do this without raising the County tax. Mr. Fox stated that Parsippany, in his opinion, is way too large to be involved in any type of joint dispatch. Additionally, he felt that the County is not in a position to give away free services. Council President Grossi agreed. Additional discussion ensued.

Relative to projected Police Department staffing, Chief Peckerman advised that currently there are 101 officers. Eight officers are eligible to retire tomorrow; by October 2011 the number increases to approximately 19. So far, eight officers have advised him of their intentions to retire before the end of 2011. Providing there is no new pension legislation, he doesn't anticipate any additional retirements this year. However, if there is new pension legislation, he estimates there could be seven or eight officers leaving by the end of this summer, which would leave the force with approximately 93 officers; if all 19 go between now and next year, the force will be down in the eighties. This coupled with the fact that it takes a significant amount of time to hire police officers causes him concern. If we go down to 80 officers, the Patrol and Investigative Divisions will be staffed, but the "extras" will be eliminated in addition to the elimination of a separate Traffic Section. Once we get into this "hole," it will be difficult to dig out of it. Chief Peckerman also advised that in the last three years it has been difficult to hire high quality people. We will have a staffing problem whether it occurs this summer or at the end of 2011. It could take up to 18 months before we can get a newly hired officer on the road. If we get someone who is already trained, the timeframe could drop down to six or seven months. The Chief noted that he asked for six officers this year, but didn't get them; guaranteed, he will be asking for at least six officers next year. We will need to continue to hire in blocks of six. We would have to hire six officers per year between 2011 and 2017 in order to keep in the high nineties or reach 100 or 101, assuming individuals eligible to retire actually retire. He also

pointed out that, on the average, one officer retires each year as a result of injuries, other employment opportunities or disciplinary reasons.

Chief Peckerman noted that overtime would increase significantly if we lose officers. In 2007 we were severely understaffed; \$506,000 was spent in overtime. We made an effort to hire officers who were kept in the Patrol Division; we didn't fill Juvenile Detective positions or place them anywhere else except in Patrol. The next year, 2008, the overtime dropped to \$335,000. As a result of additional retirements and limited hiring, overtime in 2009 amounted to \$384,000. This year he anticipates using every penny of the \$418,000 allotted for overtime and, perhaps, even going over that amount. He advised the Council that overtime expenses are carefully monitored. Rarely is there a questionable overtime expenditure. The overtime is justified and needed.

To hire a lateral transfer this year, the amount which would have to be added to this budget would be approximately \$53,000 plus the cost of uniforms for about \$1,800 and benefits amounting to about \$26,000 – roughly a minimum of \$80,000. Chief Peckerman advised that if we began the process of hiring six lateral transfer officers starting tomorrow, they would not be on the road by themselves until late this fall. Overtime costs would not be impacted this year; we will see the impact next year. The Chief reminded the Council that, when you look at the projections, more than four officers will need to be hired each year for the next four or five years.

Mr. dePierro commented that if the Council does not want to put the Police Department into a drastic situation, we need to hire at least six officers this year at a cost of \$480,000 or \$500,000. If the process begins now, Mr. dePierro pointed out that the budget would only have to include appropriations for a six month period at an approximate cost of \$240,000. Mayor Barberio cautioned the Council that the budget will be even more drastic next year. He told the Council that he wouldn't have taken the officers out of this budget, if he did not recommend that they not be hired this year.

Based on the eight retirements at the end of next year, Mr. Stanton requested an approximate cost of the "cash out." He felt the number should be about \$1.6 million. Chief Peckerman advised that the amount would be spread over a number of years. Mr. dePierro noted that this will occur whether or not new officers are hired.

Mayor Barberio indicated that the money is just not there. He wanted to hire the officers, but it's not in the budget this year nor will it be in the budget next year. The Council Members pointed out that the money wasn't in last year's budget either. Mayor Barberio indicated that we will have to find a way to do more with less.

Council President Grossi confirmed that these are difficult decisions to make, but she expressed her hope that we are not compromising anyone's safety by doing this.

Chief Peckerman advised that the Police Department will do everything it can possibly do in order to ensure public safety. He reiterated that, obviously, overtime will increase. If it is needed, it must be done. If the force gets down in the nineties, he will have to advise the community that DARE and the school resource officers, as well as other similar programs,

will be the first to go. The Patrol Division will have the overtime, but overtime can be utilized for only so long without burning out the officers.

Mr. dePierro commented that a reduction in the Patrol Division puts residents at risk. It is great to keep taxes down, but not at the expense of the public's health and safety. Ms. Lim noted that the Chief indicated that he would eliminate supplemental programs before endangering public health and safety. Council President Grossi stated that she would hate to see the school resource officers eliminated, as they do a great job with the youngsters; they keep things under control. They are a huge asset to our community. Chief Peckerman agreed that the school resource program is one of the Police Department's best programs, noting how the recent DCA report raves about the program and even suggests its implementation in the middle schools. However, it would be eliminated if officers are needed in the Patrol Division.

Mayor Barberio told the members of the Council that if he thought the public safety was in danger this year, he would have included the six officers in this year. Next year we will re-evaluate the need; by that time we will know whether or not the State Legislators will approve a 2.5% hard cap.

Mayor Barberio explained that difficult decisions had to be made. He advised, for example, that he cut all the overtime in the Parks and Forestry Division. It rained on Friday night; the fields were horrible and couldn't be utilized. He cut the seasonal help in Parks and Forestry Division as well. These were not easy decisions, but decisions that had to be made.

Operating expenses in the Police Department's budget were reviewed. Specifically,

Vehicle Equipment (229) – Chief Peckerman asked that the budgeted amount of \$76,000 for one marked and two unmarked vehicles be changed to \$68,000 for the purchase of two marked cars to be used for patrol at \$34,000 each and the \$8,000 difference be transferred to Communication Equipment and Service (252) to replace the emergency generator at the Powder Mill Radio Transmitter, noting that there were problems with the generator during the last storm.

Building Maintenance (231) – The \$9,000 appropriated for floor waxing was questioned. Mr. Cesaro asked if the Police Department could forgo the floor waxing this year. Chief Peckerman advised that, if the floors aren't waxed, they could get destroyed. Capt. Jasiocki noted that the floors in the entire building are stripped and waxed twice per year. The process takes several days. Chief Peckerman indicated that he would like the floors to be done at least once a year, commenting that the Police Department is concerned about maintaining its new headquarters. **A motion was made by Mr. Cesaro to cut the \$9,000 this year, seconded by Council President Grossi.** Mr. Fox preferred that the floors be treated once each year.

**Roll Call:**

**Mr. Cesaro** - **Yes**  
**Mr. dePierro** - **No**  
**Mr. Fox** - **No**  
**Mr. Stanton** - **No**  
**Ms. Grossi** - **Yes**

**Motion failed.**

**Mr. Fox made a motion to decrease this line item from \$9,000 to \$4,500, seconded by Mr. Stanton.**

**Roll Call:**

**Mr. Cesaro** - **No**  
**Mr. dePierro** - **Yes**  
**Mr. Fox** - **Yes**  
**Mr. Stanton** - **Yes**  
**Ms. Grossi** - **No**

**Motion passed.**

Other individual line items listed under the Building Maintenance account were questioned, including alarm and security system maintenance; the landscaping of the grounds; and the building maintenance contract. Council Members' concerns were addressed. In connection with landscaping costs, Council President Grossi suggested that, in the future, maintenance-free plantings be considered. She suggested that the Environmental Advisory Committee look into this and make recommendations.

In Service Training (302) – In response to a question posed by Mr. Cesaro as to how much of this training is mandatory, Chief Peckerman responded that one-third to one-half is mandatory. While some of the training may not be required by Statute or Attorney General Guideline, liability is reduced through proper training. Ongoing training, per Chief Peckerman, is a critical component of any law enforcement agency.

Council President Grossi questioned how many programs or conferences are needed in order to maintain licensing. The Chief explained that the conferences where people stay overnight are very rare; the ones that he attends were taken out of the budget last year. He noted that some conferences are paid out of forfeiture funds or the OEM Budget. The 911 Conference is very important; he wouldn't want to see that cut. He noted that officers already attended that conference; our 911 system is up to date. We stay ahead of the curve by attending this conference. He emphasized the importance of training. Additional discussion ensued. Capt. Phillips, Commander of Internal Affairs, underscored the Chief's comments relative to the necessity of proper training.

Education (300) – Chief Peckerman explained that this account covers the Township’s contractual obligation to pay for officers’ college educations. He reviewed what areas of study are covered in the SOA and PBA Contracts. Council President Grossi advised that she will take a close look at the contracts relative to the list of approved degrees.

Electric (303) – Ms. Lim, in response to Mr. Stanton’s inquiry as to why the initial request was for \$90,000, yet the Mayor’s Budget reflects \$120,000, explained that after the budget requests were submitted, Mr. Hardie, the Purchasing Director, provided revised numbers for electricity, as well as for natural gas and gasoline. In some cases, the Administration increased appropriations accordingly.

Armaments (411) – Chief Peckerman noted that while only \$16,322 was expended/encumbered as of December 31, 2009, \$31,800 is appropriated in this budget because last time the Department ordered ammunition it took nine months to receive it. Ammunition that has been on order for 18 months still hasn’t been delivered. This is a necessary expenditure. Some reserves were used last year rather than spending the money allocated in this line item.

Safety Equipment (445) – Individual line items in this account were reviewed. Council President Grossi specifically questioned the need for trunk organizers at \$3,000. The Chief agreed to delete this expenditure from his budget.

Communications and Other Equipment Maintenance (453) – Mr. Cesaro questioned the length of the Mobile Video Recorder Lease. Chief Peckerman stated that this may be the last year on the lease.

Council President Grossi asked the Chief what he would cut if he were asked to reduce his operating expenses by 10%. He responded that he would cut community programs including DARE supplies and other materials distributed at community events. These would probably amount to less than half of what the Council President is looking to cut. From there, cuts would dig into the operations of the Police Department. He commented that this budget is lean; last year’s budget was lean as well. What the Council sees is significantly less than what he requested from the Mayor. His budget has already gone through one round of cuts.

Council President Grossi wondered if funding for the DARE Program and some of the community outreach programs could be supplemented. She offered to look into obtaining donations, hoping that, perhaps, the budget could be reduced. Chief Peckerman indicated that the Municipal Alliance Committee provided some funding for DARE last year. The Committee could be asked if it would be willing to fund DARE this year. The DARE supplies (tee shirts, etc.) are nice to have, but they are not necessary to run the Program. The cost for DARE supplies and the Community Policing supplies (literature to hand out

relative to crime prevention, etc.) amounts to approximately \$15,000. It is a matter of what we want to do for the community and what we are willing to pay for it.

No capital improvements were requested this year.

**ANIMAL CONTROL (890)** – No specific questions were posed by the Council. Council President Grossi noted that this is a small budget; everything budgeted appears to be necessary.

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**MUNICIPAL COURT (270)** – In connection with operating expenses, a question was posed as to why Dues, Professional Journals and Conferences (297) was increased over last year's budget when less than the amount appropriated last year was actually spent. Ms. Lim will check with the Court Administrator and advise the Council. Council President Grossi also questioned why the amount budgeted for Translators (452) increased, pointing out that less than half the money budgeted last year was expended. Mr. dePierro commented that the need for a translator cannot be predicted. Council President Grossi stated that if the Municipal Court historically spends \$850 per year for translators, why would \$2,500 be needed this year. Mr. Fox commented that in these difficult economic times, crime is up. Ms. Lim reviewed the explanatory statement which documented that the average cost for an interpreter is \$250; the Court estimated 10 occurrences in 2010. Ms. Lim commented that with two court sessions (each with a day and night session) per week, 10 does not seem like a high number.

Ms. Lim updated the Council on a potential court merger. Mt. Lakes went with Denville and the other towns, per Ms. Lim, want to wait until there is more experience with the Dover Joint Court. This is still to be explored.

It was noted that there were no increases relative to the contracts with the Township's public defenders and prosecutors.

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## **PUBLIC HEARING – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Council President Grossi opened the meeting to the public, noting a three-minute time limit per speaker.**

**Joe Butkus, Camelot Way**, stated that he would like to see six officers included in this year's budget, but because of the time involved before they are actually on the road, he suggested hiring one in February, one in June and one in August and then determine how this impacts the budget, instead of budgeting \$480,000 in one shot. Mr. Fox noted that one problem, especially with new recruits, is that academies normally run training only twice a year.

**Sigmund Balaban, 10 Grecian Street**, noted these are challenging times, but he is of the opinion that if there are social events in the community for which corporate sponsors cannot be found, those events should be eliminated from the budget. Additionally, the sharing concept should go beyond the local aspect. Lots of New Jersey towns have similar budget problems; there are certain areas that should be explored, if they haven't been considered already, such as joining together to enhance buying power for supplies. He suggested that the Township anticipate what Chief Peckerman advised is going to happen and take the initiative. Mayor Barberio explained his view that the Township would not be placed in a bad situation this year if the officers are not hired. Next year, if he has to provide for the hiring of these officers, he will. Mr. Balaban pointed out that with the decrease in the number of officers there is "wear and tear" on both the community and the officers who serve it.

**Gene Natoli, SOA President**, supported Chief Peckerman's request for the hiring of new officers this year. He understands the budget situation, but noted that Mayor Barberio made it clear that it will be more difficult to hire police in next year's budget. He noted that the problem with the police staffing is that the number of officers cannot exceed 113, but there is no firm minimum; the number continues to get lower and lower, which is unacceptable. The ordinance should read not less than a certain number or more than a certain number. We are going to hit a critical juncture sooner than later. The community, as well as the officers, will be at risk. He asked the Council to strongly reconsider the hiring of six officers this year.

**Judy Miller, 3 Windsor Road**, noted that she has lived in Parsippany for three years and decided, when she saw that taxes would be increasing by 8.7%, that she would attend a meeting to find out how the money is being appropriated. She stated that she looked at the Police Budget on-line and had an idea. There is a \$7,500 line item for washing police cars; she questioned why offenders don't wash cars as part of their punishment and save the taxpayers \$7,500.

Capt. Phillips advised that this was done in the past, but there were issues when offenders were not closely monitored. Offenders tend to do damage to the cars. It is actually less expensive to have the cars washed by the carwash than to have a police officer "babysitting" offenders.

**Annelise Catanzaro, 67 Midvale Avenue**, pointed out that the \$6,500 budgeted for the DARE Program is matched four to one by the County through the Municipal Alliance Committee. There is a grant which has already been confirmed by the County. If this money is eliminated from the budget, we will lose four times the amount, funds which are used to support programs to prevent the use of alcohol and drugs. Council President Grossi confirmed that the Council did not reduce the amount budgeted for DARE.

**Roy Messmer, 10 Drumlin Drive**, agreed with the comments made by Sgt. Natoli. Ms. Lim, at Mr. Messmer's request, confirmed that the \$26,000 estimated as the cost of an officer's medical benefits is correct, noting that this amount includes prescription, medical

and dental. Mr. Messmer indicated that he and his wife have one of the best plans in the country at a cost of \$16,000. He further expressed his view that two police officers are not needed at the high schools. These officers could be on the street. He noted that there are two security guards at each high school. Other towns just have police officers show up randomly. He suggested that the Board of Education pick up the bill.

Council President Grossi felt that the Council needs to seriously change the ordinance so that there is a minimum number of police officers that we cannot go below.

Mayor Barberio commented as to the value of resource officers in our schools. Council President Grossi concurred, noting that the fact that we have no gangs, as recently pointed out by Sgt. Christiano at a meeting she attended, is a direct result of police presence in the schools. Mr. Fox agreed with the need for these resource officers.

Mr. dePierro expressed concern that the hiring of six police officers is being postponed until next year, noting that if we have a 2½% cap next year, we won't be hiring police officers at that time. He felt that the officers should be hired this year, prior to the 2½% cap. He made a motion to add \$250,000 to this budget to hire six police officers. Mr. Fox seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:**

<b>Mr. Cesaro</b>	-	<b>No</b>
<b>Mr. dePierro</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Fox</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Stanton</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Grossi</b>	-	<b>No</b>

**Motion defeated as four affirmative votes are required to increase the Mayor's recommended budget.**

Mr. Fox suggested that this matter be revisited after the remainder of the budget is reviewed to ascertain if there are areas that could be cut and the money used to hire new officers. Mayor Barberio reminded the Council that there are other safety related concerns provided for in this budget that shouldn't be cut in order to hire police officers. Mr. Fox pointed out that the primary function of government is to protect its citizens. He felt that the Council should be looking at the rest of this budget to see if there could be changes that would allow for the hiring of officers this year.

**Pat Petaccia, 182 Hawkins Avenue**, felt citizens are very concerned about finances and what is affordable. Every year police and union workers receive raises. People on the outside don't. This should be taken into consideration. Regarding the need for resource officers in the schools, Ms. Petaccia pointed out that one of the problems is that parents are not involved in their kids' lives today. She asked the officers of the Police Department to freeze their raises this year and for 2011 and 2012. The community has been good to its officers over the years; it's time for the officers to give back to the community.

Mr. dePierro commented that if there was a voluntary wage freeze by the Police Department, the hiring of new officers could be funded.

Additionally, commencing this year, Ms. Petaccia wondered if there could be new contracts for new hires. Ms. Lim explained that decreased benefits for new hires is subject to contract negotiations with the police unions.

**Seeing no one else come forward to speak, Council President Grossi closed the public hearing relative to the Police Department.**

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### **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

Present for this portion of the budget review: R. Malcolm, Chief Financial Officer

**ASSESSMENTS (060)** – There are four full time employees in this Division. The salaries are frozen this year. Mayor Barberio reminded the Council that all nonunion salaries have been frozen.

Relative to operating expenses, Mayor Barberio noted the following revisions to the budget submitted to the Council:

Appraisers and Consultants (209) – reduced from \$47,500 to \$40,000

Dues, Professional Services and Conferences (297) – reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000

Education (300) – reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000

Office Supplies and Expenses (399) – reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,400

Tax maps (478) – reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000

**TREASURY (070)** – Ms. Malcolm noted that there are four full-time and one part-time positions within this Division. She pointed out that the salary of the part-time employee was reduced from \$15,000 to \$7,500.

It was noted that the Division's operating expenses have already been greatly reduced from the 2009 budget. Ms. Malcolm noted there is an audit requirement that funds be budgeted for Consulting Services (271) to pay the cost of hiring someone to yearly evaluate the Township's long-term liability. This was done last year; she recommended to the Administration that this amount be eliminated this year, but noted that the Township will receive a minor audit comment as a result.

**COLLECTIONS (080)** – Ms. Malcolm noted that money has been appropriated to pay the former Tax Collector on an as-needed, hourly basis, to assist at the end of the year with the annual financial statements and to guide the new Tax Collector.

**CONTINGENT (520)** – Ms. Malcolm explained the purpose of this account. It was noted that the amount was cut last year from \$25,000 to \$20,000. **Mr. Cesaro, noting that only \$2,000 was spent in 2009, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanton, to cut \$5,000 from this account.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Mr. Cesaro</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. dePierro</b>	-	<b>No</b>
<b>Mr. Fox</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Stanton</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Grossi</b>	-	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion passed.**

**MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE (530); RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES (541)** – Ms. Malcolm reviewed these accounts.

Mr. Fox took this opportunity to ask Ms. Malcolm if it is permissible for the Police Chief to approach the Council later in the year for emergency funds, if needed. Ms. Malcolm explained that approval of the Division of Local Government Services is required. An emergency must be something that was unforeseeable. A municipality won't be rewarded for not being responsible in budgeting. If the emergency is approved, the expense becomes a deferred charge and must be raised the following year. This process doesn't look good to rating agencies because it appears that the governing body cannot manage its budget. She indicated that you do want to go this route unless a dire emergency exists.

Council President Grossi noted that there is a realized surplus of \$3.3 million. She asked if \$1.3 million of that amount could be used to defray costs in this budget. Ms. Lim pointed out that \$3.25 million is being used this year. Ms. Malcolm advised that there is about \$2 million left in surplus, which will be needed this year. She warned that surplus which cannot be replenished should not be used. She noted that we didn't get back the full \$3.3 million of surplus used in last year's budget. It would be ill-advised to take more out of surplus this year. She indicated that she did not even want the \$3.25 million budgeted as an item of revenue this year. Mayor Barberio agreed that no additional surplus should be used this year. Ms. Malcolm pointed out that how a municipality uses its surplus is a major concern of rating agencies.

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**DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY (170)**

Present for this portion of the budget review: J. Walsh, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

Mayor Barberio noted that several employees' hourly rates need to be revised as a result of a clerical error. The 2010 base salaries for the affected individuals will be corrected.

In connection with operating expenses, Mr. Walsh explained that the increase in the appropriation for Border Collie Food and Veterinarian Services (351) is needed to purchase and train a new dog as Bess is retiring. Mr. dePierro noted that the Mayor's budget for 2010 for Parks and Forestry is already down from 2009.

Mr. Walsh reviewed the capital expense items.

### **DIVISION OF RECREATION (180)**

Present for this portion of the budget review: J. Walsh, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry; J. Zitelli, Recreation Supervisor

Ms. Lim advised that the Division is being run by Mr. Walsh with the assistance of Ms. Zitelli. David Bahn, the former superintendent retired last year. Mr. Cesaro suggested that the Parks and Forestry and Recreation Divisions be combined. Mr. Walsh could be given a salary increase to oversee both divisions; a new superintendent would not be required at a savings to the Township. Ms. Lim advised that the Administration is not planning on replacing the former superintendent at a \$90,000 salary. Ms. Lim confirmed that Mr. Walsh is overseeing the general operations of the Recreation Division. Ms. Zitelli is the Senior Recreation Supervisor. There is an additional employee on board to assist her. Mr. Cesaro asked that the Administration explore his suggestion of merging the two divisions. Additional discussion ensued.

Operating expenses including P.A.L Activities (407), Employee/Coaches Background Checks, and Computer Hardware/Software (261) were reviewed. Mayor Barberio advised that he is pursuing corporate sponsorships for the fireworks; sponsorships have been secured for some of the other events. He felt that the possibility of a shared fireworks event could be explored, but having enough space for people and the parking of cars present a problem. The Mayor noted that Parsippany Hills High School is the perfect location for fireworks. Events shared with other municipalities, such as the summer concert series, will be considered for next year.

Ms. Lim noted that capital projects for the parks are being charged to the Open Space Trust Fund.

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### **PUBLIC HEARING – PARKS AND FORESTRY DIVISION AND RECREATION DIVISION**

**Council President Grossi opened the meeting to the public, noting a three-minute time limit per speaker.**

**Roy Messmer, 10 Drumlin Drive**, suggested seeking donations to fund community events from the apartment owners. Additionally, having noticed standing water at Smith Field, expressed his concern that, due to the elimination of overtime, playing time will be

curtailed. This won't just affect Little Leagues, but also the individuals who pay for the use of the fields. Additionally, he pointed out that there was no signage advising that the fields were closed, which can become a liability issue. Mr. Messmer complimented the work done by the Parks and Forestry Division, emphasizing that Parsippany is well known for maintaining its fields.

Mayor Barberio stated that he understands what Mr. Messmer is saying, but if he wants him to keep putting money back into the budget, we will be at 11 or 12%. He indicated that he would prefer not eliminating overtime, but he has to make cuts. Council President Grossi confirmed that if you cut the budget, you have to cut services. Mayor Barberio indicated that he cut more than 10% of most departments' budgets. If we can find the money, he will be happy to reinstate the overtime.

**Seeing no one else come forward to speak, Council President Grossi closed the public hearing relative to the budgets for the Parks and Forestry and Recreation Divisions.**

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Mr. Cesaro, in connection with the salary and wage portion of the Recreation Division's budget, asked if someone has already been hired as the new superintendent and, if not, can we hold off on the \$47,500 expenditure until his recommendation to combine the two divisions is reviewed. Ms. Lim advised that some of the money is being used to pay the individual who is assisting Ms. Zitelli handle the workload. This individual's rate of pay is \$12.00/hour. We can't afford to lose a body in this division. Mr. Cesaro suggested that this individual continue to be paid until the matter is reviewed. Mayor Barberio indicated that he would consider the suggestion, but he does not know if combining the two divisions is feasible, noting that Recreation is a very busy department.

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### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Present for this portion of the budget review: B. Ievoli, Director of the Department of Human Services

**OFFICE OF HEALTH (430)** – Ms. Ievoli noted that M. Willis, the part-time Public Health Nurse, can be cut from the budget as she has taken a full-time job elsewhere. \$6,734 can be eliminated.

Ms. Ievoli explained the \$400 appropriation for Cell Phone Expense (536). Additionally, she advised that the line item for Rabies Clinic (420) can be cut from \$900 to \$600 as the result of a new veterinarian not using an assistant as required by the former veterinarian. Ms. Ievoli also pointed out that the Township is still conducting H1N1 Clinics and, to date, Parsippany has helped to vaccinate over 12,000 residents. Clinic costs were covered under the grant.

**OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICES (450)** – Operating expenses were reviewed. It was noted that Cultural Affairs Bus Trips and Activities (462) was already cut. Electric (303) is down. Relative to Fleet Maintenance, a question arose as to why \$3,000 was requested when only \$799 was used in 2009. Ms. Ievoli explained that, if there is an accident, the deductible now is \$2,500 with the JIF. One accident would wipe out this line item.

**CHILD DAY CARE CENTER (451)** – Mayor Barberio indicated that he will keep the Council up to date regarding the status of the Center. It was noted that it may not be operating next year. Mr. Stanton (Council Liaison to the Center) advised that sponsors are being sought. State Aid as well as United Way funding has been reduced. The appropriation of \$60,000 will remain in the budget, but the Mayor expressed the need for a time limit as to when a final decision is made. As the Township pays the Center quarterly, some funding will have to remain in the budget. Ms. Lim advised that recently there has been more positive feedback.

**AMBULANCE SERVICES (452)** – Ms. Lim indicated that the addition of a second ambulance for daytime service is being considered. We bill for ambulance service and anticipate revenue in the amount of \$65,000, probably more. Ms. Ievoli noted that since the Township began billing in 2006, the revenue, to date, is \$1,461,000. We took in \$130,000 during the first quarter of this year alone. By adding a second ambulance, the cost is \$400 for a 12-hour day; one job covers the cost.

Ms. Ievoli noted that a new ambulance in the amount of \$186,000 is to be purchased under the capital improvement section of the budget. The specifications have been fine tuned and the amount can be reduced to \$175,000. The appropriation would be reduced by 5% of the difference.

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## **PUBLIC HEARING – HUMAN SERVICES**

**Council President Grossi opened the meeting to the public, noting a three-minute time limit per speaker.**

**Lee Keimel, 342 Lake Shore Drive**, responded to a question posed by the Council relative to the number of rigs on the road. He noted that there have been as many as five at the same time. This is a frequent occurrence.

**Seeing no one else come forward to speak, Council President Grossi closed the public hearing relative the Department of Human Services' Budget.**

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**PUBLIC BUILDINGS (140)**

Present for this portion of the budget: M. Hardie, Purchasing Director

It was noted that the salary of the Maintenance Superintendent is split amongst the Current Fund and the Utilities. The amount charged to each utility is based on where he spends his time.

Mayor Barberio provided the following changes to operating expenses:

Building Maintenance (231) – reduced from \$70,000 to \$65,000

Technology Upgrade (261) – reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000

Office Supplies (399) – reduced from \$10,000 to \$9,500

Equipment Maintenance (453) – reduced from \$35,600 to \$35,000

Electricity (141) – reduced from \$55,000 to \$54,000

Fleet Maintenance – reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000

Heating (142) – reduced from \$24,000 to \$23,000

Gasoline (323) – reduced from \$599,750 to \$593,000

Telephone (480) – reduced from \$247,720 to \$245,000

Oil Heat at Craftsman Farm, Sheep Farm, and Watnong – \$8,400 was already expended this year; the Cottage will be shut down; the line item account increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000

Ms. Lim asked Mr. Hardie how comfortable is he with the amount budgeted for gasoline. Mr. Hardie stated that the budgeted amount has been cut three times this year; its close, but the amount should not be cut further. The amount appropriated should be in the range.

There are no capital projects slated for this year. The cost of the new HVAC for Town Hall is to be charged to the Energy Block Grant.

Council President Grossi questioned the status of solar panels from the County. She explained how the County Improvement Authority's pilot program operates. The Township may be able to use Energy Block Grant money to install solar panels at the Community Center. Mayor Barberio indicated that he will look into the installation of solar panels at the Municipal Building as well.

**STREET LIGHTING (455)** – Mayor Barberio advised the Council of the following additional cuts:

Electric – Street Lights (303) – reduced from \$550,000 to \$535,000

Traffic Light Maintenance (494) – reduced from \$50,000 to \$45,000

Street Light Maintenance (519) – reduced from \$1,000 to \$500

**PUBLIC HEARING – PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER  
SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Council President Grossi opened the meeting to the public, noting a three-minute time limit per speaker.**

**Lee Keimel, 342 Lake Shore Drive**, in reference to the Police Department Budget, noted that there are 40 officers with salaries ahead of the cap (haven't reached top grade yet). He suggested that the Council keep this in mind

**Seeing no one else come forward to speak, Council President Grossi closed the public hearing.**

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mr. Cesaro**

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Stanton**

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Mr. Cesaro</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Mr. dePierro</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Mr. Fox</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Mr. Stanton</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Ms. Grossi</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:38 p.m.**

**Minutes Approved May 18, 2010**