

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

May 13, 2014

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Council President Carifi at 8:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Paul Carifi, Jr.
Council Vice-President Robert Peluso
Council Member Michael J. dePierro
Council Member Brian Stanton
Council Member Louis Valori

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor James R. Barberio; Joseph Kovalcik, Jr., Acting Business Administrator/ CFO; Paula Cozzarelli, Assistant Business Administrator; John Inglesino, Esq., Township Attorney; Yancy Wazirmas, Township Clerk;

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

Review and Discussion of the Mayor's 2014 Budget Recommendations.

FORMAL ACTION MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAKEN.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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 30, 2014 where it has remained posted since that date. A legal notice appeared in the Daily Record on May 2, 2014 and was forwarded by fax to the Star Ledger and Parsippany Life on April 30, 2014.

Mayor explained that at a meeting with Council President Carifi and Councilman Valori, certain cuts to certain departments were discussed and agreed upon.

Mr. Kovalcik reported that the following changes were made:

- No longer fund the three vacancies that are in the police budget. These were new officers coming in at the entry level.
- Two of the lateral transfers were moved to become entry level to go into the academy.
- Under Police Department object codes in Other Expenses, the following cuts were made:
 - 244, Uniforms - \$11,800
 - 302, In Service Training - \$7,000
 - 412, \$6,600
 - 231, Building Maintenance, \$10,000

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These cuts are in coordination with the reduced numbers for people going through the academy.

- Include \$55,000 as an Item of Additional Revenue into the Sewer fund balance portion.
- If a police officer retires, they will be replaced with an entry level.

Mayor Barberio, Councilman Valori and Council President Carifi thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget.

Mr. Carifi confirmed with Mr. Kovalcik that an item code for legal expenses for the Committee of the Whole will be included in the Budget.

Motion to cut \$175,196 from the Police Department Budget by Mr. Valori seconded by Mr. Peluso. (\$139,796 S&W + \$35,400 OE)

ROLL CALL:

YES – Councilmembers dePierro, Peluso, Stanton, Valori and Carifi

Mr. Peluso asked about Finance object code 070: recommended that the base salary for the CMFO be reduced from \$145,000 to \$135,000.

Mayor Barberio responded this has to be done by salary ordinance and commented that they will not find a qualified CFO for the lower salary. Mr. Kovalcik explained salary ranges. Mayor Barberio added that moving forward, the CMFO will always be part of the budget process.

Mayor Barberio concluded by stating that the tax increase dropped from 1.98% to 1.41% which comes out to about \$.10 per day on the average home assessed at \$309,000.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to open the public hearing by Mr. Stanton Seconded by Mr. Valori.

ROLL CALL:

YES – Councilmembers dePierro, Peluso, Stanton, Valori and Carifi

- Roy Messmer, 10 Drumlin Dr: asked about increases in the Insurance budget for the following object codes: 343 (Health Insurance Claims and Premiums), 344 (In Lieu of Health), and 785 (Prescription Insurance). He also asked/commented how much was budgeted for legal expenses and the low amounts in property taxes that apartment owners pay. Mr. Kovalcik explained how the insurance budget is put together.
- Ray Vigano, 16 Whitewood Dr: asked what the projected revenue increases by percentage are for this year, how much is in reserve, and what is the average cost per employee for health benefits.
- Jonathan Nelson, 202 Patriots Rd: asked the following: is the snow fund trust account outside the current fund (yes, it's a dedicated trust fund); why can't health insurance also

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be in a dedicated trust account (DLGS will not allow it); should they hold off on ordering the new software program for the Finance Department since the new CFO may want to go in a different direction (Mr. Kovalcik recommended they leave it in the budget since the current software is not adequate for this day and age); what is the status of Volunteer's Park and the open space trust fund (that is not being used out of open space); when does the new business administrator start (6/16), what is her starting salary (\$140,000) and will she be getting a Township car (yes); and the \$55,000 used from sewer surplus.

- Pat Petaccia, 182 Hawkins Ave: asked what is the amount of open space money that is being used in the budget (Mr. Kovalcik will have it at the next meeting).

Motion to close the public hearing by Mr. Valori Seconded by Mr. Stanton.

ROLL CALL:

YES – Councilmembers dePierro, Peluso, Stanton, Valori and Carifi

ADJOURNMENT

Motion To Adjourn Meeting By Mr. dePierro Seconded By Mr. Stanton

ROLL CALL:

YES – Councilmembers dePierro, Peluso, Stanton, Valori and Carifi

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Yancy Wazirmas, Township Clerk

Paul Carifi, Jr., Council President

Minutes approved: