

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 6, 2016

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Cody Miller** in the Court Room of the Municipal Complex located at 125 Virginia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey.

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (*NJSA 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21*). Notices were placed in the official publications for Monroe Township (i.e.: South Jersey Times, the Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and also on the Monroe Township website.

Cncl. Pres., Miller stated the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council please sign in and you will be recognized during the Public Portion. Kindly state your name for the record.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Cncl. DiLucia led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walt Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	(Arrived 6:05 PM)
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present	
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present	
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present	
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present	(Arrived 6:58 PM)
Solicitor Charles Fiore	Present	(Arrived 6:05 PM)
Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel	Present	
Deputy Clerk, Sharon Wright	Present	

B.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

C.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

• **2016 Municipal Budget**

Cncl. Pres., Miller noted approximately a week ago Council received a copy of the budget to allow time to review it prior to this meeting where questions or concerns can be addressed by the Business Administrator. He noted even though there is a Budget Committee he felt before the budget is adopted or placed on a Regular Council Meeting agenda the full Council should be able to make their comments.

Cncl. Dilks questioned the number of times the Budget Committee met to discuss the budget and what their recommendation was. **Cncl. Pres., Miller** replied the Committee met once and they are content moving it forward for adoption as presented by the Administration but we wanted to bring it back to the full Council before making that move.

Cncl. DiLucia expressed his concerns regarding the hiring of three police officers; noting this is the second year in a row that Council was presented with a budget after the fact. He spoke

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of the ordinance that allows up to seventy police officers and commented that even though the Mayor has a right to go up to seventy, Council has the obligation to make sure we can afford it. It was never discussed except as part of an overall discussion when it was stated three police officers were hired and the problem he has with this is the money to hire the officers has not been approved. At a minimum it would have been more appropriate for the Mayor to discuss hiring those officers before he spent the money even if he took a straw vote of Council since hiring police officers is a tremendous amount of money. The initial amount is probably about \$100,000.00 each and that can potentially go up to \$200,000.00 a year. Last year the same thing happened, four police officers were hired and were scheduled to go to the Police Academy on April 1st and at that time he questioned what happens to these people who quit their previous jobs if Council does not fund the positions and they can't be hired. He added we would have needed to go through Civil Service to lay them off and then we would have disrupted their lives. At that time there was a lot of discussion about the budget and the record will reflect that those police officers were hired in anticipation of imminent retirements. He noted as far as he knew no one has retired since then and the number of officers went from sixty to sixty-eight and from the seniority sheet associated with the budget it does not look like anyone will be retiring before October 2016. Four police officers have the same seniority date of October 2016 but three have given no indication that they will be retiring and then there is not another retirement until the year 2020. The pretense that these officers were hired to replace retiring officers is not factual. Cncl. DiLucia noted he has a problem with that and the fact that this was not discussed with Council unless it was discussed without him being there but he felt he was in attendance at all meetings. He noted he was not aware of any discussion to hire four officers last year or three this year. **Cncl. Pres., Miller** questioned Mr. Heydel on what the Mayor's justification was to hire the additional staff. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** explained last year before we hired the four officers there were sixty-two officers. The Police Chief and the Mayor discussed how they were going to increase the staffing in the Police Department and Cncl. DiLucia is right, the Mayor did hire four officers but their hiring was delayed because the April Police Academy Class was cancelled. That hiring brought the number of officers up to sixty-six. Out of sixty-six officers we had one retire September 2015 on accidental disability, leaving sixty-five. One of the new hires is a replacement for that officer. Council approved moving OEM to the Police Department and an officer was assigned to handle OEM, so the second new hire replaces him and the third hire is to replace the officer who will retire this year by September 30th. Mr. Heydel noted there has been a lot of discussion about getting people in the Police Academy before people retire and that is what was done. Cncl. DiLucia referred to Mr. Heydel's comments that the Mayor hired four officers and expressed his concern that Council never approved spending that money. Mr. Heydel noted he was not disputing the fact that communication could be better and he will work on that with the Mayor. Cncl. DiLucia noted he would rather say these things when the Mayor was in attendance but he can read the minutes to catch up on what happened since this is the only chance he will get to say that either there is a total disregard for Council, which he hoped was not the case, or there was a straw vote taken that everyone was aware of but him regarding the police being hired. He felt government should not work that way particularly when it affects residents/taxpayers. He noted the ordinance stating seventy officers is a guideline and even if there is a need what dictates where we go is the ability to pay for it. Mr. Heydel noted in regards to the ability to pay when you look at the officer who retired last year and his replacement the dollars are different. Cncl. DiLucia noted attrition does not decrease the cost all that much because of the benefit calculations. Sometimes when the need exceeds what the ability is to pay you find a way to pay but what bothers him is not being given a say in it when he bears the responsibility for it. During a past meeting Council was chastised and told we had no right to interfere in the collective bargaining process and he disagrees with that because if nothing else maybe some members of Council have the ability to know what to do in negotiations. He noted he would have said something but was in the hospital at that time when 2% more was given to employees in order to get into State Health Benefits. That cost this township an additional \$1.2 million dollars or more just in those three years and that is far more than we are going to save on insurance. There was many more creative things that could have been done to address the issue of the shortfall of the employees that are now experiencing more out-of-pocket expenses. Anyone who sits in on negotiations knows that if you give an extra 2% annually over three years that equals an extra 12% gross cost, not 6% and that amounts to a lot of dollars that do not justify what we did. Mr. Heydel noted he was asked to put an analysis together of the additional 18% cost for insurance as a comparison and the two year saving is \$690,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia noted that 18%

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number was negotiable even down to 12%, but even if it was 18% that will not cover the 2% additional salary for that three year period. Mr. Heydel disagreed that the number was negotiable and noted he stands by the analysis he presented. Cncl. DiLucia questioned whether Mr. Heydel disagreed that the additional 2% cost an additional 12% of gross in those three years. Mr. Heydel noted it is 2%, 4% and 6%. Cncl. DiLucia explained it is not 2%, 4% and 6% because you have a 2% carryover so the cost over the course of the contract will be 12% more. Mr. Heydel noted the employees deserved every penny of that. Cncl. DiLucia didn't dispute that; noting the employees may be worth 20% and if he was on that side of the table he may have even done more. What he was saying is it would have been much better to get the input of the entire Council on things that involve negotiations or expenditures of money because ultimately it comes down to cost. He added only a stupid person would hire police or negotiate contracts without Council input, as a smart person wants to surround himself with as much knowledge and experience as he can. It is basic one on one labor relations and anyone negotiating a contract knows that 2% additional on a three year contract when it is an annual increase costs 12% of cost. Cncl. DiLucia also felt there were inconsistencies in director positions as some went from \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and he questioned whether that was a mistake. Mr. Heydel explained the salary ordinance presented for first reading was changed from a fixed salary of \$4,000.00 to a range of \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00 so \$6,000.00 was included in the budget to cover the cost for those that were increased. Cncl. DiLucia noted this is the first time that was brought up and if he didn't find that in the budget he would not have known about it. He added this is not a personal thing of who is getting it he just compared this budget to the 2015 budget and saw the inconsistencies, as some people were increased to \$6,000.00 and some are still at \$4,000.00, while new people are coming in at \$6,000.00. Mr. Heydel noted he added \$6,000.00 for the Director of Real Estate and the Director of Law, the others were left at \$4,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia questioned why. Mr. Heydel advised because he was asked to do so. Cncl. DiLucia noted somebody needs to give Council the courtesy of coming here and making a case for those increases because if he is questioned why someone's pay was increased 50% what is he supposed to tell them. Mr. Heydel explained those two positions were not increased in twelve years. Cncl. DiLucia noted and the MMUA didn't raise their rates in seven years but all the s _ _ t hit the fan and that justification given for why this didn't come before Council is ridiculous. Mr. Heydel didn't want to comment about the MMUA salaries and went on to explain that he was going to address the director salaries during this budget meeting. Cncl. DiLucia felt it should have been addressed before this because he had to go through a thick budget to find it. He noted he was not blaming Mr. Heydel because he was doing what he was told to do but he wanted it on the record what his problem is and why it is so difficult for him to sit here time after time going through this. He added he didn't know if he was the only councilman that feels like this but he feels like an outsider. Cncl. DiLucia went on to say the Economic Development Committee always got \$10,000.00 a year but that was increased to \$25,000.00 last year, which he questioned at the time and now this budget says they got \$28,000.00 and spent \$26,800.00. Now, they are being given \$20,000.00 and it looks like their budget was reduced \$8,000.00 because last year's amount was \$28,000.00 when actually Council only approved \$25,000.00. The Main Street Committee is also getting \$20,000.00 so we are going from \$10,000.00 to \$40,000.00 in two years. What bothered him even more is when he asked the Economic Development Committee to give an overview of what they did with the money he was told to come to a meeting if he wanted to know. He told them as a councilman he does not have to attend their meetings, they should be giving reports so Council knows what was spent and what it was spent on. The only reason the EDC members came to the Council Meeting was because he (Cncl. DiLucia) had questioned it at a prior meeting. Cncl. Pres., Miller explained in his case if he wants to ask questions he knows he can contact Tony Langella or Ernie Carbone because it is as simple as asking and everyone was given the invoices of what money was spent and what it was spent on. Cncl. DiLucia noted he was given the information when he walked in for the meeting. Cncl. Pres., Miller explained the intent was to give it to Council to review and if they had any questions they had the ability to ask Tony Langella or Ernie Carbone. They said at that meeting they were willing to go through every single item and discuss what the money was spent on because they are open about the money. Mr. Heydel noted they were given \$25,000.00 and we did a transfer of funds in November or December to bring it up to \$28,000.00 because of the promotional advertising video they are doing. Cncl. DiLucia noted a transfer of funds changes the allocations and shows they spent more than was budgeted but it should not appear as if \$28,000.00 was initially budgeted for EDC. He added his point is that this budget is showing an \$8,000.00 reduction when it should show \$5,000.00. Mr. Heydel explained that is why he color codes things when he prepares the budget to show what was transferred in and

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transferred out. Council will see line items marked in green where money was taken out from original budgets and yellow where it was allocated in to cover expenditures. Cncl. DiLucia noted his point is we went from \$10,000.00 to \$40,000.00 and that is a big jump and from what he understands most of it is for economic development. Mr. Heydel explained last year it increased to \$25,000.00 because we knew the Main Street Committee would be established and would need money. The budget was done before the Main Street Committee was up and running so they utilized some of the EDC budget until we could figure out how we would handle that in the following year. This year we looked at the needs of both committees and found they each needed \$20,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia commented that Mr. Heydel may know what their needs are but Council does not and as a councilman if he authorizes \$25,000.00 he does not know that it really means \$40,000.00. Mr. Heydel noted it is not his job to explain what each of these committees are doing he just puts in the numbers. Cncl. DiLucia questioned when Council receives a transfer of funds resolution does that authorize an increase in the budget. Mr. Heydel explained it does not authorize an increase in the overall budget it decreases one area of the budget to increase another area of it. Cncl. DiLucia noted when he looks at this it says in 2015 they were budgeted \$28,000.00 and he questioned whether Mr. Heydel would agree that is incorrect. Mr. Heydel replied yes but that is the way he has to show it in the document. He noted on the detailed page of each budget he highlights what was transferred in and out of budgets. Cncl. DiLucia noted but it shows an \$8,000.00 reduction in the budget and that is not accurate and the bigger issue now is that Council is being asked to authorize \$40,000.00 for what he felt is for the same purpose, economic development. Mr. Heydel noted he cannot answer that because an Economic Development Commission and a Main Street Committee have been developed by Council and everyone was here when the presentation was made for the Main Street Committee. Cncl. DiLucia noted Council did not authorize anything for the Main Street Committee yet and the question before Council is whether we are going to authorize \$40,000.00. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted the request is for \$20,000.00 and \$20,000.00. The Administration sets up the budgets and they want an EDC budget as well as a Main Street Committee budget but Council can disagree with that and vote against it. He noted we have had discussions in the past where some members of Council feel there should not be two separate committees but the majority of Council does not feel that way. Cncl. DiLucia disagreed; noting he voted in favor of the Main Street Committee. Cncl. Pres., Miller stated it was said on the record that the Main Street Committee should be under the umbrella of EDC. Cncl. DiLucia disagreed saying that is not factual. Initially what was requested was to replace someone on the EDC and he questioned whether the attorney who just left was replaced by another attorney and if another person was really needed. After the discussion Cncl. DiLucia noted he voted to add the additional person on the EDC. They came in then and asked for a Main Street Committee so he asked some questions and then he voted for the adoption of that committee. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted they asked for the incorporation of the Main Street Committee and we held that off and it was not moved forward. Cncl. DiLucia questioned whether there was a separate meeting for the Main Street Committee and Cncl. Pres., Miller replied not for the creation of it but the Administration is setting the budget for the actual committee, they can still expend money. Cncl. DiLucia questioned whether that was true that the Main Street Committee was not approved. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted the incorporation into the township has not been approved. Mr. Heydel noted funding of the Main Street Committee was discussed at an Ordinance Meeting due to his initial concerns and it was being looked into to see how many positions would be included on the committee but in the meantime he found out that he didn't need a legal mechanism through an ordinance in order to create that department. **Solicitor Fiore** added it was requested that he prepare a draft ordinance since from the funding standpoint a corporate entity needed to be created for Main Street USA according to the gentleman from the State. Cncl. DiLucia noted he has a problem with the statement just made that he resisted the formation of the Main Street Committee because he remembers saying the more committees we had the more people get involved. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted he would pull up the minutes of the meeting. Cncl. DiLucia noted when he asked what would be funded for that committee the Mayor stated probably \$20,000.00 so he questioned whether it would be \$20,000.00 for them and \$25,000.00 for EDC. That was the only discussion, there was no action on that, just a mention by the Mayor that he thought \$20,000.00 would be the right number and then a councilman said later that he thought it would be ridiculous to almost double the amount the EDC had. Cncl. DiLucia noted he was saying (for the record) \$40,000.00 out of this budget was too much money. Mr. Heydel noted he would go back to the chairmen of the EDC and Main Street Committee and put something together to justify their budgets of \$20,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia felt that would be better than just coming here with a flat number. Cncl. DiLucia also

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questioned page 6 of the budget, which stated 60 officers. Mr. Heydel noted that was a typo. Cncl. DiLucia questioned the justification for increasing some of the director salaries. Mr. Heydel replied the justification is the Director of Real Estate is researching all the properties for the land sale and the Director of Law has had an escalation in his workload. Mr. Fiore noted the Director of Law salary is what was paid in 1995 when Jeff Albertson was solicitor and the other justification for it is he does not bill for emails, review of emails or telephone calls with municipal employees. Cncl. DiLucia did not want to speak about individuals or job evaluations he was just concerned that there was an inconsistency in the numbers with some directors getting \$4,000.00 and some getting \$6,000.00. The last issue he wanted to address was that the half a million from the HIF did not appear in the revenue side of the budget because if that were applied the budget could be zero. Mr. Heydel explained he never applies one time shots as revenue items, he always brings them in as surplus. He went on to explain that it sounds like we are getting \$475,000.00 in new money when actually \$125,000.00 was received from the HIF last year along with a dividend from the JIF. Cncl. DiLucia noted a couple of years ago a report was made that the insurance company had agreed to give us \$500,000.00 in 2016, \$500,000.00 in 2017 and the remainder of \$200,000.00 in 2018. Mr. Heydel replied last year the HIF got on a stronger financial footing and declared a dividend and paid to their members \$125,000.00 in either November or December and that was applied to the surplus balance. That money was a return of our equity but they call it a dividend. Cncl. DiLucia noted they hold the money until they are sure all the run-outs are completed and then they figure what they owe us. Mr. Heydel noted they owed us \$2,000,000.00 and they were going to give us \$500,000.00, \$500,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia thought Mayor Gabbianelli had previously reported it to be \$1,200,000.00 but now since Mr. Heydel was saying it was \$2,000,000.00 why couldn't \$500,000.00 be used to zero out the tax knowing that we are getting another \$500,000.00 next year and a million the following year. Mr. Heydel replied because we are looking at one time dollars coming in and one time dollars are not applied to a budget since in the following years you can't replace it. He explained from the red light camera money he put what the expenses were into revenue and the balance went to surplus. The budget is structured that way because it provides stability from year to year so you can apply your surplus balance to offset what you want to do. When utilizing one time revenues that you can't support from year to year you bastardize your budget. Cncl. Pres., Miller added it would be like taking the money from the abandoned properties and trying to apply it to next year's budget, it just does not work because it is not sustainable and it could go away. Cncl. Bryson objected to that philosophy because if \$500,000.00 is coming in this year and next and a million the following year how can you say you can't predict that. He questioned why he didn't see HIF refunds or the abandoned property fees included in revenue for 2016 and 2017. He added he sees the amounts of money coming in for abandoned properties from being on the Board of Health and knows that money will be coming in year after year. Cncl. Bryson spoke of the proposed Towing Ordinance that included fees and noted he saw nothing in the budget regarding that. He went on to say what annoys him more than anything is that under the previous mayor Council was always consulted regarding township expenses, the mayor didn't just take it to a few members of council because he knew he had the votes. Cncl. Bryson noted he personally does not get all the information but maybe it's just him and Cncl. DiLucia not getting it. He noted Council's responsibility is to the taxpayers and to pay the bills but we need to know what those bills are first. We cannot rationalize what the bills are when we come to a council meeting. He urged all council presidents to bring the issues to council like how it was done in the past. Cncl. Bryson noted the bottom line is the taxpayers are entitled to those rebates from the insurance companies because the previous councils worked very hard to get insurance equal to or better than the HIF. He would love to see the budget go to zero and wants to see all financials from now on. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted we see them when we get reports from the committee who presents the budget and then asks for questions. The concerns of Council members are addressed but if a majority of Council does not agree with those concerns or issues then the opinion will not change. He added we cannot bank on the money from abandoned properties because the revenue stream is sporadic, one year you may get \$15,000.00 but when the banks realize they are getting fined it could dry up to \$5,000.00. You can't project a swing like that so you can't project or factor in revenue that could dry up. Cncl. Caligiuri noted we have a steady flow of bills and we budget our revenue based on that flow of bills so when we get a rebate from the HIF or grant money the wise thing would be to use that money for capital improvement or to pay down a bond. He added it is kind of like winning the lottery. Cncl. DiLucia noted if that argument was true than you couldn't count on taxes. Cncl. Pres., Miller explained a municipality can project taxes, as the standard principle is there will be a 94% to 96% collection rate. Cncl. DiLucia noted

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nothing is predictable, \$500,000.00 is in the treasury and we have a right to do what we want with it. A lot of people in the township are underemployed or unemployed and those on fixed incomes have received no increase what-so-ever. We have an opportunity to give them a break and not raise their taxes this year but we're saying put all that money in reserve because who knows what is going to happen four years from now. Mr. Heydel noted many commercial businesses are appealing their taxes so we're looking at a decrease in revenue. Cncl. Bryson stated you just said you can't predict revenue so you can't forecast/predict that either. He noted the point is, if what was said is true about municipal budgets then no budget within New Jersey would ever go down, they would always forecast the budget going up each year but there are several townships in Gloucester County where the taxes went down or stayed the same like Franklin Township. We are only asking that the taxes stay at a zero increase for one year. Mr. Heydel questioned whether Cncl. Bryson wanted Monroe to operate like Franklin Township and he suggested that he talk to towns that have budgeted one time revenue streams to see what it has done to their budgets. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted this is the lowest increase we have had since 2003/2004. Cncl. DiLucia questioned if we could come in lower does that mean we would drop the philosophy that we have to raise it 2% a year to squirrel money away. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted we need to look at our capital projections because if we do anything that jeopardizes our ratings eventually the taxpayers will front more money if our credit rating is downgraded. Cncl. DiLucia noted there are seven members of Council and when the vote comes up everyone will vote what they want but the one thing that is not subject to a vote is that he never wants to see another major expenditure in this budget or future budgets that this Council is not aware of and gets after the fact. He noted what would happen if this Council says we are not going to hire those three police officers. Do we go to them and say you are not going to have a job when most left a job for this. He noted the majority will rule and he has been on the short side of the vote many times but all he is asking is that before money is spent it must be authorized by this Council. Council should be given the courtesy to have the vote so it is on record whether the vote is 5 to 2 or 4 to 3 or whatever the case may be. The amount of money to hire four or three police officers should not be spent without the agreement of Council before those people were given a job. Last year a couple of people had resigned from their job to take the police officer position but the Police Academy class was cancelled and those people could not go back to their old jobs and that was not right to do to them. He noted the vote on the tax increase will be what it is but he is putting it on the record that he will not sit here again next year if he is re-elected and go for this again. Cncl. Pres., Miller noted regarding the particular budget items that were addressed the reason this budget meeting was held was because nothing is set in stone and we can change our minds on the funds that have been allocated. Cncl. DiLucia noted we should learn from history. Last year there was no recommendation from the Budget Committee because it was said the committee was inexperienced. The budget was then discussed and a vote was taken. This year the same things raised last year happened again. When things happen one time you can say it was a mistake but when it happens again it is deliberate so he wanted it put on the record that he does not want to see another major expenditure spent before it is approved. Cncl. Dilks noted he agrees with everything Cncl. Bryson and DiLucia were saying but this increase is less than 1% and the philosophy during his tenure on Council has been to increase the budget 2%. He noted he does not want it to go down to zero because we don't know what we will be looking at in future years. He has seen other towns include onetime revenues and they ended up in the ringer. Things have been good over the last twelve years but the first year he came on Council the budget was increased 16¢. Cncl. DiLucia noted the first year he came on Council the taxes were increased 15%. Mr. Heydel noted it was not a 15% increase, it was a change in the rate because of the economy and the lowering of property values. What happened was in the middle of the recession the tax base went down because that was the same year our budget was \$1,500.00 less than the year before budget. Cncl. Dilks noted we had to vote for a 16¢ tax increase during his first year on Council because the past administration had four zero budgets and that is why he does not want to or believe in doing a zero budget but he does respect Cncl. DiLucia's opinion. Cncl. DiLucia noted he understands the philosophy of the 2% increase but the situation this year is that people on fixed incomes are getting a zero increase and that is causing them problems. You can say the tax increase will only be 1% but it will be 2% after it's blended with the school and county tax. He noted he could have found \$400,000.00 in the budget in terms of revenue that was understated and expenditures that were overstated but he didn't do that. He felt by going to zero the township would not be jeopardized because this is a conservative budget. Mr. Heydel noted

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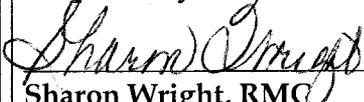
C.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)

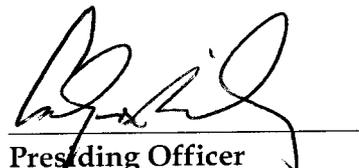
the budget is conservative by design because he knows that we will be going out for an \$8,000,000.00 bond in 2018 and he does not want to have only \$400,000.00 or \$500,000.00 surplus when we go out to do that. Cncl. Bryson questioned what the bond would be for. Mr. Heydel explained \$2.6 million that we already have out there and the \$2 million in capital expenses each year for the next three years. He noted the capital needed to run the town each year is around \$2 million and that does not include a road program that is just for basic services. The capital for this year from everyone's requests is \$3.2 million but that has to be reviewed. \$100,000.00 has been set aside for capital, which is 5% for bonding cost. Cncl. Bryson noted this type of discussion on all financial matters is what he likes and this has not been done in over a year. He added Kevin can say my door is open but he or Cncl. Pres., Miller are the ones who should present it to Council. Cncl. DiLucia urged Council members to all agree that whoever is sitting on Council next year will be given the opportunity to discuss everything at this table so everyone can have their say and the majority can rule and hopefully do the right thing. He noted his problem is half the time he doesn't know if he is doing the right thing because he doesn't know the numbers or what is going on. He added he knows there is a capital plan but he was not aware of the \$2 million from the HIF, he thought that was only \$1.2. Mr. Heydel noted that money will be spent on services because the rate of increases on our services is greater than the revenue that we are getting in from building. That money will be spread out over time so we are not whacking people with huge tax increases and the fiscal policy that has been followed over the last twelve years bears that out. He added you want stability in the tax rate and these are the things that do that. Basic fundamental math says expenditures are going up but the revenue is not being brought in to meet that expense because we don't have a \$5,000,000.00 industrial park coming in and we can't get it from small housing developments. The added assessments of \$8,000,000.00 doesn't get us much each year and we are still in appeals. Last year we lost \$9,000,000.00 from 228 appeals. Cncl. DiLucia noted that would be about an \$800,000.00 loss in taxes. Mr. Heydel noted when we lose appeals we bear the brunt of that because we still have to pay 100% to the schools and County. Cncl. DiLucia noted we just benefited from the Guzzo property because we didn't have to pay the school tax and he questioned how much that was. Mr. Heydel replied about \$700,000.00 but that offset the \$2 million that we lost in appeals a few years ago. He noted he asked to have it done that way so we could keep all the added assessments to make up for some of the assessments we lost. He explained those funds are shown in the budget under the Budget Revenue Fund Balance Change Report under excess current tax collections. He explained \$400,000.00 of that money is reserved for uncollected funds due to a better collection rate. He explained there are factors in budgets that cannot be controlled and we want to maintain stability from year to year and that is why this policy works.

D.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Bryson made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting of April 6, 2016. The motion was seconded by Cncl. DiLucia and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Wright, RMC
Deputy Clerk


Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of April 6, 2016 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings. The official tape may be heard in the Office of the Township Clerk upon proper notification pursuant to the Open Public Records Law.

Approved as submitted _____
Approved as corrected _____

Date 4/25/16
Date _____