

## February 25, 2021 – Budget Workshop Session

The Township Committee met on the above date via Gotomeeting.com with Mayor Liedtka calling the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken showing present: Mayor Jeremy Liedtka, Deputy Mayor Lido Panfili (6:13), Committeewoman Denise Koetas-Dale and Committeemen Shreekant Dhopte and Michael Russo. Also present Thomas Sahol, Administrator; Wendy Wulstein, CFO and Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk.

Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was noted.

Township CFO Wendy Wulstein stated they had another meeting with the Budget Advisory Committee for a total of three meetings. Ms. Wulstein said that she is asking for final direction tonight from the Township Committee on the budget. They are considering introduction of the budget at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting. Ms. Wulstein will then file the application with the cap waiver application to the state local finance board. Ms. Wulstein will then meet with the state in the beginning of April. Once approved by LFB, final adoption will then be at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Township Committee meeting. Ms. Wulstein said that she sent the Township Committee four scenarios for the budget to discuss tonight. Mr. Dhopte asked Ms. Wulstein to walk them through the changes that were made to the budget. Ms. Wulstein said that the first round of changes were based on the Budget Advisory Committees suggestions to speak to the each department head to see where cuts could be made. The second round of changes came from the \$65,000.00 that was set aside for demolition of the old municipal building if approved. Ms. Wulstein removed \$55,000.00 from that line item of the budget and recommends capitalizing that expense by ordinance. There was also a reduction in the janitorial services. Ms. Wulstein said that in regards to salary and wage for Administration, there are certain employees that have a portion of their salaries charged to sewer by resolution every year. Mr. Sahol will now be a part of that resolution. Ms. Koetas-Dale asked to hear from the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). Vibhor Bafra, Jim Codella and Chad Plotkin were all present from the committee. Mr. Batra thanked the Township Committee and said that they have a diverse and robust committee. Mr. Panfili joined the meeting at 6:13pm. The BAC presented their ideas and findings in a slideshow. Mr. Plotkin said that some of the higher level ideas they are asking the Township Committee to look into are establishing discipline around the budget going forward, laying out a vision for the next budget, having numbers and data needed to go into the budget more accessible in order to create pie charts and graphs and lastly for the Township Committee to be upfront with the residents on what the future is for the town in regards to construction and demographics in a five year outlook. Mayor Liedtka thanked the BAC.

Ms. Wulstein briefly reviewed the four different budget scenarios that she sent to the Township Committee concerning surplus vs the tax rate. The Township Committee all agreed on the same scenario.

Ms. Wulstein said that she will get the official state document out to the Township Committee sometime next week. At the March 11<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting they will plan to introduce the budget and schedule the public hearing and adoption for the budget which should be at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Township Committee meeting.

Mr. Panfili made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to open to public comment. All were in favor.

Belinda Blazic from 228 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road thanked Ms. Wulstein for her presentation.

Chris Hodson from 285 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road asked if the budget documents are available for public review. Ms. Wulstein said that the budget will be available for review at the Township the Friday prior to introduction.

Hearing no further comment, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Russo to close public comment. All were in favor.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Panfili to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fryc, RMC  
Deputy Municipal Clerk