

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION MARCH 3, 2022

The Township Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lee Panfili at 6:30 p.m. followed by a flag salute and moment of silence.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Belinda Blazic, Denise Koetas-Dale, Lido Panfili, Michael Russo and Jeremy Liedtka

Also present: Thomas A. Sahol, Township Administrator; Wendy Wulstein, CFO; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk and Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Foreman

The Open Public Meetings Act statement was read and compliance noted.

Ms. Wulstein reviewed the budget draft with the Township Committee and asked for their comments.

Mr. Liedtka asked Troy how often the wood chipper is used. Troy responded it is used quite often. The current one is very old and they cannot get parts for it. Troy said the cost ranges from \$50,000 - \$70,000 on state contract. Mr. Liedtka asked Troy about the articulated flail mower. Troy replied they need it for behind the guard rails, ditch banks and right-of-ways. Mr. Liedtka asked Troy about the 18 inch cold planner. Troy responded that it helps mill the roads since we have a lot of pot holes and roads in need of repair. Mr. Liedtka asked Troy to look into leasing one instead of buying since we do not use it that often. Mr. Liedtka asked about the thumb attachment and straight plow. Troy replied it is to replace one of the plows. Mr. Liedtka asked Troy to look into what equipment can be leased instead of purchased. Mr. Liedtka asked about the construction vehicles for inspections. Troy replied our current construction vehicles are 2006 and have a lot of maintenance issues. Ms. Wulstein said we can put the vehicles in a single line item. Mr. Liedtka asked what the speed indicators are. Mr. Sahol responded they are movable, solar powered devices that can be put throughout the town and will indicate the vehicles speed. The last device monitors the speed history and traffic counts throughout town.

The Township Committee agreed on the wood chipper, mower, groom mowers, thumb attachment, construction vehicles, and traffic devices. They asked to hold off on the cold planner and mill head until leasing can be looked into.

Ms. Wulstein said in regards to the Sewer budget, last year they made a final payment on debt. Additionally, there was a \$300,000.00 emergency when the pump station failed. Ms. Wulstein said this will go back up \$300,000.00 next year since we have the final payment to the prison this year out of the sewer system capital improvement.

Mayor Panfili said that he sat with the Budget Advisory Committee on Tuesday and they had a question about the wheel loader. They also recommended 11 police officers.

Mayor Panfili said they interviewed two police candidates and would like to hire both of them putting the officer count at 12. Ms. Koetas-Dale asked to see the Budget Advisor Committee's report prior to making a decision on the budget.

Mr. Liedtka asked Ms. Wulstein to forward him all of the reserve accounts for review. Ms. Koetas-Dale asked that Ms. Wulstein forward them to all of the Committee members.

Mayor Panfili asked if we should grow the Public Works Department instead of going out to bid for outside landscaping. Ms. Koetas-Dale agreed to grow the Public Works Department. Mr. Liedtka does not agree. Troy will give the Township Committee a detailed report on this subject for next year.

Mayor Panfili suggested putting the landscaper bid out for a longer time-frame in order to get more bids and competitive pricing.

Mr. Panfili suggested holding off on hiring the 7th DPW employee.

Ms. Wulstein went over different budget scenarios with the Township Committee. With much discussion the Committee chose to put the tax rate at .3931 which would be an increase of \$114.08 on the average home.

The Township Committee asked for some more information regarding the budget and Ms. Wulstein agreed to give it to them by close of business Friday, March 4th,

Mayor Panfili wants to vote on the budget at the March 10th Township Committee meeting. Ms. Wulstein said that the Budget Advisory Committee needs to send in their report by this Friday 4 pm at the latest in order for the Township Committee to review it prior to the March 10th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Russo to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Hearing no comment. Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Russo to close public comment. All were in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Mr. Liedtka and seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale. All were in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fryc, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk