

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 3, 2011
Budget Meeting

The Budget Meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee was held on this date at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick New Jersey. This meeting was called to order at 9:12AM by Township Clerk Judith Fisher. Mrs. Fisher noted that this meeting was being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act". Present were Kevin Duffy, Alfred Carrazzone, James Perry, Thomas Campbell CPWM, Amy Maronpot CFO and Township Clerk Judith Fisher.

Mrs. Maronpot gave an overview of this year's budget. Revenues are posted through October and are the same as last year. Her work sheets were reviewed. Various options were discussed. The Committee looked to see where cuts could be made for next year, but every line item is at bear bones now. Receipts from Yards Creek were questioned and it was suggested that the Auditor be contacted for a reply.

Mr. Perry discussed raises for the employees since it has been three years since their last raise; if nothing else a cost of living raise. The Committee noted that they would like to see the numbers and asked Mrs. Maronpot was asked to work up the figures for a 2, 3 and 3.5% raise for the next meeting.

COAH was discussed and it was noted that the services for Mrs. Bishop, COAH Consultant and Mrs. Fisher, Municipal Housing Liaison, could come out of the Trust Fund for administrative expenses. Mrs. Maronpot will check with Mrs. Bishop on this.

Mr. Perry talked about the Hardwick Seniors and that the Township through Clean Communities could donate \$400 to them. Senior members, Mr. Lou and Elaine Rossi walk the roads and pick up garbage; so on behalf of them, the Township /Clean Communities could make a donation to the Hardwick Seniors.

Municipal Alliance is a matching grant program. The Township matches up to \$900.00 each year for this Grant that is through the Freeholders. Mr. Perry talked about the amount of paperwork and work that goes into this and suggested that we should look into getting rid of this program. Committee agreed to discuss this further at future budget meetings.

Mrs. Maronpot noted that the Insurance budget line was over budget by \$4 to \$5,000 in the Group Health Insurance and also that the Dog Trust Account that is being used for the AC Salaries is almost depleted.

Mr. Perry talked about the E Blast and noted that the cost for the software is estimate at about \$200.00. He will be putting a voucher in for this expense.

There was some discussion on using the Township property located at the Riverview subdivision for a solar farm.

The Committee is hoping that the School budgets will be a "0" increase for next year. There was a brief discussion on having one superintendent for all the school and regionalization. This discussion comes up every year around budget time with no outcome.

The ultimate question during this budget meeting was: What needs to be done to get under the 2% "CAP" for 2012. Unfortunately there was no answer.

At 10:24am, Mr. Perry moved to adjourn today's meeting; this motion was then seconded by Mr. Carrazzone. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk