

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Budget Work Session
Saturday, January 24, 2009

The Budget Work Session of the Hardwick Township Committee was held on this date at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick Township. This meeting was called to order at 9:10AM by the Township Clerk Judith Fisher. Mrs. Fisher then noted that this meeting was being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meeting Act". Present were Committeemen Kevin Duffy, Alfred Carrazzone and James Perry; also present were Thomas Campbell, CPWM, Township Engineer Ted Rodman, Construction Official Dave Peck and CFO Gregory Della Pia.

Members from the Blirstown Ambulance Corp were present to discuss their budget request. Present were Treasurer Paul McNamara, Nancy Baer, Assistant Treasurer and President Joe DeGrassi. They noted that their membership is at 48, but that they are in need of daytime members. There are 8 members on the Corp from Hardwick Township. No matter what, all their calls are answered. Just like everyone, their costs have gone up, but the Corp is not asking for any increase from the Township.

They discussed the need to purchase a new vehicle, but other than this, their equipment is in good condition. Blirstown Township is leasing a 3 acre piece of property to the Ambulance Corp for a nominal cost with a 75 year lease. The location is behind Blirstown's new Municipal Building. There was a brief discussion on building designs and cost. Mr. DeGrassi noted that they have started a building fund and that they are asking all the townships, in a long term plan, to contribute to only their building fund. This would be outside of the other donations that they get from the Township's. Their plans are to be in this new building in about 5 years. Their building now, is located on the Stillwater Road and it can not be expanded because of the location and constrictions; their thoughts are to sell this building when all is done. A sketcher of the proposed new building was reviewed by the Committee. Mr. DeGrassi noted that next year they will be asking for a donation for their building fund beside the usually donation.

Mr. Della Pia, CFO discussed the possibility of grant money to help with their project of a new Corp Building. This is something that they are looking into.

The Committee thanks everyone for coming today and they noted that they could not promise anything at this time until they see where they are with their own budget.

Stillwater Volunteer Fire Company was next. Present were Eric Pfunke, President and Bob Wolff, member. Stillwater covers Hardwick plus providing other mutual aid. Their fund drive response has been down. They are asking to have restored the monies that the Committee cut from them last year or to have no further cuts for this year. Right now there are 4 residents from Hardwick as members. There was a discussion on stand pipes which Stillwater Fire Company was able to get a grant for. A location discussed was at White Lake, which would be an ideal location. The only problem is that the County owns the lake. Mr. Carrazzone noted that he would speak with the County to see if this would be possible. The Committee thanked Mr. Pfunke and Mr. Wolff fro coming in today and they would do what they can to support their efforts.

Next was Blirstown Fire Company and Mr. Michael Sullivan, the new president was present. He spoke that in the past, the monies that were spent from the donations was for equipment. He did report that there were about 212 response calls, but that he did not have the numbers that were in Hardwick. The donation of \$12,500 in 2008 was great and that the Company is not looking for an increase for 2009. The Committee noted that they appreciate the work that they do and that they will make every effort to hold the donation when it is at, but that there are no promises. They have 7 new members, but none from Hardwick. Their By-Laws were changed about 5 years ago to have no limit on the number of members allowed from Hardwick Township.

The Committee thanked Mr. Sullivan for coming in today.

Engineer Ted Rodman and CPWM Tom Campbell talked about Millbrook-Stillwater Road, section II. There might be a possibility of using the Co-Op for this project, but that we must comply with all regulations, meaning a must for traffic control done by our DPW. The requirements were reviewed if we do the work thru the Co-Op.

Wastewater Management was discussed. Ted noted that he will be attending a meeting on this in Knowlton. The Plan needs to be updated every 6 years and Hardwick is not current. Ted discussed his contract and noted that there will not be an increase for 2009.

CPWM Tom Campbell handed out his budget draft and reviewed where the increases were. Overall, his budget is the same as last year. He reported that so far this year, the Township has spent \$11,000 in salt. Also discussed was the possibility of the purchase of a new pickup truck.

Construction Official Dave Peck was in and notes that there was no increase in activity in his department. There was less monies brought in last year and he suggested a reduction in hours and salaries for this department. Permit fees were last updated about 3 years ago and at that time, they were somewhat in line with the other Townships. We are below what the State charges for permits and he suggested that we raise our fees. He will have his Secretary Mrs. Dwyer get copies of the surrounding Township's fee schedule and do a comparison.

The CFO Gregory Della Pia did a breakdown of what this department took in to what went out:

YEAR	IN	OUT
2006	37,521.00	15,940.00
2007	40,888.00	33,107.57
2008	29,595.00	38,749.57

Mr. Peck reported that Road Runner now has a new program that was installed and has been up and running for about 1 week.

Mr. David Gill, Tax Assessor was also present to discuss his budget and the revaluation that needs to be on the books for 2010. There was a discussion about a revaluation vs. reassessment. As for the tax maps, Laura Brill is updating them and they should be completed soon. They will then need to be sent to the State for approval before anything can be done about the revaluation. As for his budget for 2009, last years figures will be fine.

Next, the Committee briefly discussed the two cell towers and co-locators. A question had come up about the amount of monies being collected and its accuracy. The CFO will check into this.

Another Budget Work Session date was scheduled for Saturday, February 14, 2009 a 9AM.

The CFO noted that he would do a work sheet for the Committee on salaries and that he would work in a 2.50% and a 3% raise.

Being there was nothing further to discuss, Mr. Carrazzone moved to adjourn today's meeting at 11:45am seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion carried and in a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk