

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

March 26, 2009
Budget Work Session

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 7:31PM by Township Clerk Judith Fisher. Mrs. Fisher 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 CPWM Thomas Campbell, Construction Official David Peck, TACO Beth Dwyer and CFO Greg Della Pia.

At this time, Mr. Della Pia handed out revised budget numbers from the last work session. He noted that right now, we are over the tax levy cap by about \$40,000 and next year the surplus will be taking a big hit.

Mayor Duffy asked that the Committee work on the salaries later and that they concentrate on other expenses for now.

Mr. Della Pia talked about pensions and explained that we could defer the payments. The Committee was interested in this. The Municipal Building will be paid off this year saving \$32,000. They then discussed cutting across the board on the line items 10% which could save about \$38,000. The problem with this is that all the line items were cut on the first pass. Various suggestions were looked at.

Mr. David Peck, Construction Official noted that his department has been slow with building and that it could be cut back about 20%. At this time, the Committee took a short break.

Time out 8:36PM

Time back: 8:43PM

Mayor Duffy asked that the Committee go into executive session to discuss negotiations. On a motion made by Mr. Carrazzone and seconded by Mr. Perry, the Committee went into closed session. Motion carried and in a voice vote, all were in favor.

Resolution:

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and
Whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren and State of new Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The General nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a. Negotiations
3. As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Time In: 8:44PM

Present: Committeemen Kevin Duffy, Alfred Carrazzone and James Perry

Also present: Township Clerk Judith Fisher

Time Out: 8:50PM

Motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone and seconded by Mr. Perry to come out of closed session. Motion carried and in a voice vote all were in favor.

Township Clerk Judith Fisher noted that the Committee met in closed session with the Committee to discuss negotiations and that no official action was taken at this time.

The Committee next discussed the Road Department regarding oil/stoning and summer help.

The Building Department was next. Mr. Peck referenced that he would be willing to cut his salary by 25% because the work load was down, but that this would just be for him. Mr. Perry asked about doing it across the Board for all. There was no answer.

Mrs. Dwyer was asked if she would be willing to cut her salary in this Department. Her answer was that she was busier now and her work load has increased from before with the Road Runner program. She then explained.

Mr. Peck noted that he was doing less inspection now for 2009 than before. The SubCodes were then discussed and their salaries reviewed. No decisions were made.

The Committee then discussed closing the building one day per week, maybe on Fridays. This would then cut hours for Beth Dwyer. Mr. Perry suggested that they then cut the Clerks hours down on Thursday 3 to 4 hours and give them to Mrs. Dwyer. He feels that it would be cheaper to have her come in then, than the Township Clerk. There were many comments and suggestions but no decisions.

Various options were thought of like doing an amnesty program in the building department to cutting an employee. The Committee will continue to investigate.

Before the session ended, the Committee reviewed the donations to the Rescue squad and fire companies. Not being comfortable doing this, all agreed that since all the line items had been cut, they reluctantly made cuts to these organizations too.

Mr. Della Pia will work up the numbers again and then give them to the Auditor to see where we are now. He will then get back to the Mayor if there are any questions.

Adjournment: 9:45PM

Motion was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Carrazzone to adjourn. Motion carried and in a voice vote all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M; Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk