

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2015

The SPECIAL meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held in the Main Meeting Room in the Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Mayor James Cann
Deputy Mayor Jill Popko
Committeeman Stephen Benowitz
Committeeman Richard Carson
Committeeman John Moynihan
Township Clerk Colleen Eckert
Chief Financial Officer David Kocian
Chief of Police Frank M. Nucera, Jr.

ABSENT: Attorney William J. Kearns, Jr.
Public Works Director Dean Buhner

Mayor Cann called the meeting to order at approximately 5:04 pm and led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Township Clerk Eckert read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner:

On March 13, 2015, advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board opposite the main entrance to the meeting room in the Municipal Building; was FAXED to the REGISTER NEWS, BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES and THE TIMES; was filed with the Clerk of Bordentown Township; and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice.

The proceedings of this meeting, which are open to the public, are being electronically recorded. Requisite minutes are kept for all meetings, whether open or closed to the public.

Township Committee discussion of 2015 Municipal Budget

Mayor Cann said there were three changes to the budget. There was an increase in the assessed valuation. A line item was established for a recreation program in the amount of \$2525. Another \$15,000 was put into the Capital Improvement Budget in case the Township needs to go out for bonds. It calculates to \$4.15 off the average assessed value.

Committeeman Carson asked if money was budgeted for a donation to the Defense Enhancement Fund. He said there is a commission working in conjunction with several organizations preparing to fight if there's an attempt to close the joint base. Mayor Cann responded that the Township has funds that can be moved around to participate in this when needed.

Mayor Cann said that the Recreation Fund will be a dedicated trust so that it rolls over automatically and doesn't have to be reallocated every year.

Committeeman Carson asked if any money is being used as revenues from the PILOT programs. Mayor Cann responded that the PILOT programs do not make the tax list, so they are unanticipated income.

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Committeeman Carson said that he would like to make sure that if something is budgeted in 2015, it should be purchased. Mayor Cann responded that Police Chief Nucera and P.W. Director Buhner prioritized the lists of items that they need the most. There is approximately \$405,000 left to be used. Committeeman Carson asked if once the budget is approved, can the Township start going out for bid on the list of items. Mayor Cann responded that the Township has tried to do that the last few years to kick the bond rate. By trying to move the bond rating up, the costs are going to be lower. Police Chief Nucera added that Phoenix Advisors' recommendation for this year was if the Township was going to do any type of bonding, it should be done at the end of the year.

The electric mowing equipment (lower noise than gas at the school) is part of the capital budget. The intent would be for a Shared Service with the schools. The equipment was not purchased last year because the Township did not apply for the contract on time, but is in the budget to be purchased this year. In regard to the late police purchases, the cameras on the officers have to match the computers in the vehicles, which have to match the County dispatch. So the cameras could not be purchased until after the end of the year.

Committeeman Moynihan said on March 7, 2015, there was an assessed valuation of \$1,156,618,089; today it is \$1,159,654,679. He asked if that was going to change. Mayor Cann said that it was a just a simple mistake. CFO Kocian added that there is a small difference between the reduction. The auditor is coming up with about \$.09 difference which is the rounding.

Mayor Cann said the budget will be sent to the Auditor and he will review it, string it out all the way with all the numbers, and the Township Committee will see the minor changes when introduced.

The budget will be introduced on Monday, March 23, 2015.

Committeeman Benowitz made a motion to open to the public; seconded by Committeeman Carson.

AYE: Committeeman Benowitz, Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Deputy Mayor Popko, Mayor Cann

NAY: None

Seeing no comment, Committeeman Benowitz made a motion to close to the public; seconded by Committeeman Carson.

AYE: Committeeman Benowitz, Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Deputy Mayor Popko, Mayor Cann

NAY: None

At this time, Committeeman Carson made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby adjourn the special meeting; seconded by Committeeman Moynihan.

AYE: Committeeman Benowitz, Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Deputy Mayor Popko, Mayor Cann

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NAY: None

The SPECIAL meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was adjourned at approximately 5:22 p.m.

JAMES CANN, MAYOR

COLLEEN M. ECKERT, TOWNSHIP CLERK