

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING – April 25, 2012**

Mayor Auriemma *calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor T. Auriemma, Deputy Mayor J. Allen, Mrs. B. Fort, Mr. F. Gatti,
Mrs. B. Muir

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator V. Mekovetz, Chief Financial Officer T. Carro

ABSENT: None

Mayor Auriemma led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Dellevigne, Flintrock Road, questioned the Committee on the process of paying down the \$61 million in debt and the current lending rate. Mr. Dellevigne also commented on the repaving line item in the budget and asked about how the roads are prioritized.

2012 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Gatti stated that based on the last budget meeting, Chief Financial Officer Tom Carro made some recommended adjustments to reduce the tax rate by 1¢. Administrator Mekovetz reviewed some of the adjustments that were made to the budget and stated that the current budget as proposed, including within and without of cap, is \$17,614,348, representing a reduction of \$160,000 from the previous budget meeting. A discussion took place on using a portion the Housing Trust towards paying down debt versus reducing the debt service. Reducing the tax rate to .44¢ was discussed.

A MOTION was by Mrs. Allen to use \$200,000 from the Housing Trust Fund, applying \$100,000 to the operations budget and \$100,000 to debt service and to also reduce the tax rate an additional 1¢, seconded by Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Nay
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

Mrs. Fort stated that the Director of Public Works researched a company which uses a specialized technique to slice the sidewalks in need of repair along Main Street. Mrs. Fort continued that there are some sidewalks which will need to be entirely replaced along with the removal of the trees that are uprooting those sidewalks. Mrs. Fort also recommended including the extension of the repairs from Nelson Street down to Kings with a total estimated cost of approximately \$6,000 and requested that the Committee consider this proposal.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the revised repairs to the sidewalks on Main Street, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

Mr. Gatti stated that he had met with the Chief of Police regarding their request to purchase a digital camera system for the patrol vehicles. Mr. Gatti stated that the cost of the equipment was approximately \$70,000-80,000 and the money from the forfeited funds could be contributed towards the equipment. Mr. Gatti also briefed the Committee on the benefits of the updated equipment. Mrs. Muir proposed holding off on the purchase until later in the year. Administrator Mekovetz stated that it would take time to compile the bid specifications for the purchase of the equipment and if the Committee agreed, we could proceed to compiling the bid specifications and look to fund the project with cash from different sources within the budget and forfeited funds held for the Police Department.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to allow the Township to compile bid specifications for the purchase of the camera system at a later time this year, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made at 7:40 p.m. by Mrs. Allen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Administrator/Municipal Clerk