

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING – March 30, 2015**

Mayor Fort *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 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 B. Fort, Deputy Mayor T. Auriemma, Mrs. M. Duffy,  
Mr. S. Tropello

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

**ABSENT:** Mr. J. Broten (*due to out of town funeral service for a family friend*)

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

**2015 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

Administrator Mekovetz stated that after the initial budget meeting last week the Committee made a recommendation to cut 1¢ from the original proposed 2¢ tax rate increase. Mr. Carro stated that cuts were made in addition to using a small portion of the surplus to achieve a 1.5¢ tax rate increase. Administrator Mekovetz briefly outlined the reductions made which included line items from legal services, engineering, consultants, capital improvement fund and chip seal. The Committee discussed the reduction made to the chip seal line item and agreed that it should remain at the original \$200,000.

Mr. Tropello spoke to the future of long term planning for the Township. Mr. Tropello continued that 45 % of the Township is developed and with 31% of the Township being open space with exempt or very low tax rate properties, he would like to see more of a balance of open space, residential and commercial development. Mr. Tropello added that in conjunction with the Planning Board and a possible subcommittee, he would like to address a long term plan to bring more rateables into the Township. Administrator Mekovetz pointed that with more residential development the Township must also incur more services.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mary Grace Flynn, 8 Wheatfield Road, commented on Mr. Tropello's vision to the future of Readington.

Eric Zwerling, 309 Van Nest, read some data from studies and opined that Readington should follow strategies based on some of these studies.

Bill Goodwin, 12 Barkelow Road, commented on impact of new residential development on the schools and the tax dollars.

Marcia Zweerink, 127 Pleasant Run Road, commented on the uniqueness and character of Readington Township adding that this is what makes it a desirable place to live.

Christina Albrecht, 141 Pinebank Road, commented that there are currently eighty houses for sale in Readington and opined that adding new residential development would not be beneficial along with the expressed concern of the cost of sewers for future residential development.

**COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY**

Mr. Tropello responded to the comments of the public with regard to residential and commercial development.

Mrs. Duffy commented that Readington is a success story due to the careful planning which is what attracts future buyers to the Township.

Mrs. Fort commented that they have been following Merck closely and added that rezoning the

Administrator Mekovetz stated that the budget will be introduced at the meeting of April 6, 2015.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made at 6:50 p.m. by Mrs. Duffy to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

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