

The following are notes, not an official transcript of the meeting. For an official transcript, go to the Delanco Township Municipal Building, 770 Coopertown Road.

Township Committee Meeting

Present: Devinney, DiCarlo, Hinkle, Ouelette, Fitzpatrick
Municipal Clerk Lohr, Administrator Corcoran, Deputy Clerk Zimmerman, Police Lieutenant Sacalis, and Auditor Bob Stewart

2006 Budget Hearing (Continued)

Resolution 2006- 81 (Read in full) amending 2006 Municipal Budget (There was a handout which I assumed had the same 6-7 changes that Kate read. It didn't and by the time I caught on, I missed most of the numbers. Sorry.)

Hearing open to the public:

Resident: Why such big increases in surplus compared to 2005?

Fitzpatrick: sale of municipal building and 96% tax collection rate

Stewart: State law says you have to have a cash basis to take into account taxes that won't be paid. You always go a percent lower – 95.75%.

Corcoran: increase in salaries was 4%. There were to be three additional employees, but that is no longer the case. People had to be placed back to the departments they came from.

Resident: 203% increase in engineering services?

Corcoran: based on cost by hour. We figure what the needs will be.

Stewart: There may be grants, but we haven't received notice yet.

Corcoran: Increases in solid waste 33%, utilities 98%, gas 42%, pension costs 21% and health benefits 49%

Stewart: We got one time approval to exceed the cap limit.

Corcoran: Biggest challenge to municipalities is the cap of 3 ½ % in overall expenses – not one item that has gone up went up just that much. State benefits programs haven't done better. We participate in the state health care benefits.

Resident: Do you base the tax rates on what's on the books now or anticipate new development?

Stewart: What's on the books now. As new taxes on new houses come in, the taxes go into surplus. We can't use any money in anticipation of what we will get, though we can borrow.

Resident: What are the current plans for the Columns?

Fitzpatrick: Sell the building by the end of the year. We told the Local Finance Board that that was our intent. 3 cents of the 25 cent debt load is the Columns

Resident: Where's the money you borrowed in the budget?

Stewart: Debt only bonded when you sell it. We have a one year notes.

Resident of Shipp's Way: Where did you get that number for the increase?

Stewart: State formula –subtract school, county, and open space from revenues and divide by the percentage we anticipate getting

Resident: Does a percentage end up in surplus?

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Stewart: Yes

Resident: How my vehicles are in the debt service?

Stewart: Two – one is the bond and the other is long term 20 yrs. on the municipal building and capital improvements.

Resident: How much is left in the fund for this building?
(\$208,000 as of December)

Stewart: Not in the budget – it's in the capital fund

Resident: Are there other items like that?

Stewart: Yes, capital projects that haven't been spent yet

Corcoran: Columns took us to our limit on borrowing capital. We've been very cautious. We need it for emergency. There are still things in this building that aren't complete. We'll all feel better when we can borrow.

Resident: How will this budget affect our capacity to borrow?

Fitzpatrick and Corcoran: It won't

Resident: Recreation fees collected from developers in the budget?

Fitzpatrick: No, they go in a trust account for capital projects for recreation

Resident: There's a rumor that it was used for the Columns

Fitzpatrick: No. There's about \$30,000 in there. Some needs to come out to pay for things like the tot lot that was paid for out of operational budget, but should come out of that fund.

Corcoran: Sale of the Columns will help operationally. Emergency legal fees of \$65,000 came out of this year's budget.

Resident: How many delinquent taxpayers are there?

Corcoran: Our collection rate fell last year. We made a mistake by not keeping better track of the big guys... builders and developers... who were late with payments. We didn't have experience, so why would you believe they wouldn't stay current? One alone was \$150,000.

Resident: Alliance homes look like they are 6 months behind schedule

Corcoran: Costs go up faster for us. For example, solid waste. We've taken a tougher stance on CO's.

Resident of Pennington Ct: \$530,000 re: NJ or we don't know or expenses go away

Stewart: Engineering costs would be minimal

Corcoran: Roads aren't budgeted – they are paid for by grant funts.

Resident: Time frame

Fitzpatrick: June

Stewart: Federally funded so NJ doesn't know what it's getting yet either.

Hearing closed to the public

Adoption of Resolution 2006-81 passed unanimously

Resolution 2006- 82 adopting municipal budget passed unanimously



Consent Agenda Items:

Ordinance 2006- 7 amending Chapter 1 of Delanco Code entitled “General Provisions” to increase the general penalty provision – 1st reading by title only and set public hearing date for June 5, 2006

Ordinance 2006- 8 removed for discussion

Ordinance 2006- 9 authorizing the acquisition of real property in and for Delanco appropriating the sum not to exceed \$350,000: authorizing the issuance of an inter-agency loan of the Township in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$350,000; making certain determinations and covenants; and authorizing certain related actions in connection with the foregoing

1st reading by title only and set public hearing date for June 5, 2006

Resolution 2006- 83 providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1985)

Resolution 2006- 84 certifying receipt of audit

Resolution 2006- 85 release performance guarantee for Price Holdings Urban Renewal LLC/Albert E. Price for Block 1900, Lot 8

Resolution 2006- 86 authorizing employment contracts

Payment of Bills:

General	67,771.35
Payroll	52,404.49
Trust	2,861.65
Animal control	692.40

Approval of minutes: 4/17/06 and 5/1/06

Approval of department reports

Consent agenda approved

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Resolution 2006- 87 certifying the amount necessary to be appropriated for the 2006-2007 school budget to provide a thorough and efficient system of schools in the local district.

Proposed \$4,557,478 reduced by \$64,371 to \$4,493,107 – takes the 6.5 cent increase down to a 3.5 cent increase. Superintendent, Secretary and President of the Board and Township Committee worked this out.

Resolution 2006- 8 determining the rate of compensation of officers and employees

1st reading by title only and set public hearing date for June 5, 2006

Ouelette asked for discussion of the ranges given, but they couldn't discuss specifics in the public session, so Township Committee went into executive session for about five

minutes to discuss this item. They changed the clerk typist range to a range of \$7.15 to \$17.00 to reflect minimum wage. Then it passed unanimously

Meeting open to the public:

Resident: What are the tax implications for a house assessed at \$110,000?

Fitzpatrick: There is still the debt service on the school bond, so we would have to get that figure:

Resident: I take my hat off to you for saving that money.

Resident of McKay Way: Can you explain Resolution 2006- 9?

Fitzpatrick: It's a loan from the Sewerage Authority for a balance owed for the purchase of the Columns. We owe the seller that.

Resident of Shipp's Way: Thanks for fixing the pothole

Meeting closed to the public

Discussion Items:

1. NJDOT 2007 Municipal Aid Grant Program Update – didn't discuss since John Fenimore wasn't there.
2. Burlington Ave. Streetscape Project – phase II. Resolution 2006- 88 to authorize engineer to advertise for bids. passed unanimously

Correspondence

Fitzpatrick: Letter from Susan Bass Levin to announce aware of \$20,000 Smart Future Award for Master Plan for area within ¼ mile of train

Comments – Township Administrator Steve Corcoran

1. Brochure insert about Delanco was prepared for Economic Development - included town statistics. Will be given out on the train on May 19th as part of 3rd Friday Flyers program.
2. Burlington Avenue lights to be on by the weekend.
3. Judge Main (?) - \$2000
4. Max Von (Vaughn?) Company will be marketing proposal for the Columns at no cost to the township. Draft out in the next week.

Lt. Sacalis:

-Officer DeSantos got an award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Comments Township Committee:

Ouelette: Attended meeting for Emergency Management Services

-Working on the budget

DiCarlo:

-Historical Preservation Advisory Board is kicking around the idea of saving the gazebo at the Columns. They are also looking for a display cabinet. Members to attend a

seminar on June 1 in lieu of their meeting. She and Hinkle to attend Freeholders Seminar regarding funding for historical projects.

-Parade on May 28th. Special ceremony at 10:30 at Gateway Park to rededicate the monuments.

-Recreation is looking for a place for their summer youth program. Used the old municipal building last year.

-Library wants to buy a sign to mark the location of the library (silhouette of head and book) Book Club for adults to release selections for summer reading.

Devinney: No comment

Hinkle: Sewerage Authority received audit report. Working on infiltration plant. New engineer is preparing a new map for \$3800.

Fitzpatrick:

-Participated in National Day of Prayer @ Gateway Park with Rev. Elliot

- Working on the budget

-Senior last meeting til September was May 9

-Dave Rust will be recognized for his service to the community at the Township Committee Meeting on June 5. All are invited to attend

-Reiterated parade will turn on 2nd from Union to Willow – won't go around the Columns then along Burlington to Gateway. Same contests as last year.

Notes submitted by Maureen Barrett