

CHESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Township Council of The Township of Chester was held on February 17, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building located at 1 Parker Road. The meeting began with a joint budget meeting with the Governing Body of the Borough of Chester to discuss budget requests from the Fire Company, First Aid Squad and Library.

Notice of this meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Chester was given to the Observer Tribune, Daily Record, and Star Ledger on January 7, 2015 and was posted on the Bulletin Board, Council Chambers, Chester Township Municipal Building.

Members present: William Cogger
 Karen Powell
 Matt Kass
 Dan O'Donnell
 Jacki Spinelli

Also present: CFO Derek Macchia

CHESTER TOWNSHIP – CHESTER BOROUGH JOINT BUDGET MEETING

LIBRARY

Library Director Lesley Karczewski represented the Chester Library. Ms. Karczewski reviewed the 2015 budget request and fielded questions regarding the library's savings.

FIRST AID SQUAD

Russi Champi, Chris Champi and Mike Mastro represented the First Aid Squad and reviewed the 2015 budget request. Ms. Champi discussed the need for a new ambulance, and proposed that two be purchased at the same time; one paid for by the First Aid Squad, and one paid for by the two municipalities. The Squad also requested a fire alarm system for their building, and was advised by the Township governing body that a system was being purchased. Coverage for calls from Kessler was discussed. Ms. Champi responded to questions regarding expenditures not included in the First Aid Squad's budget request to the municipalities.

FIRE COMPANY

Representatives of the Fire Company reviewed the 2015 budget requests. Mr. Drysdale advised that he expects to hear regarding the tanker grant application within the month. The Fire Company has also applied for a \$50,000 grant to equip the rescue truck.

SHARING OF POLICE EQUIPMENT

Members of the Chester Borough Council proposed that the two municipalities consider sharing mandated police equipment purchases, such as a palm scanner. The Borough's attorney is checking with the Attorney General's office to determine whether this is permissible. Township and Borough representatives discussed the palm scanner, and whether it is currently mandated by the state.

The joint budget meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM and the Chester Township Council proceeded with their regularly scheduled meeting.

POLICE

Awards Ceremony

Chief Martini recognized members of the Police Department for achievements during the years 2013 and 2014.

Proclamation Recognizing Chief Wayne Martini Upon His Retirement

Mayor Cogger read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Wayne Martini has faithfully served the Chester Township Police Department for over 25 years, beginning his career as Patrolman in August of 1989; and

WHEREAS, over the years Wayne served as Detective, Community Service Officer, DARE Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Then on April 19, 2011 Wayne Martini was named Chief of the Chester Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure Wayne was the recipient of numerous awards, including Officer of the Year, Medal of Honor, Gallantry Star, Life Saving Award, Exceptional Duty Award, DARE Instructor Award, Meritorious Service Award and Honorable Service Award; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of Chester Township wish to express their appreciation for Chief Wayne Martini for his service, loyalty and dedication to his profession;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body hereby commends Wayne Martini for his valuable service and expresses its sincere thanks on behalf of the citizens of Chester Township and congratulates him upon his retirement.

MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Powell, seconded by Mr. Kass, to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Council Meeting.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

REPORTS

Motion made by Ms. Powell, seconded by Mr. Kass to accept the reports from the Department of Public Works and Tax Collector and place them on file.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

BILLS

Motion made by Mr. Kass, seconded by Ms. Powell, approving the bill list previously audited by the Finance Committee.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM

SUBJECT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Jersey Battered Women's Service Thanking Police Department for donation

COUNTY AND STATE

Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders Video Justice Internet based video conferencing technology now available

INVITATIONS

New Jersey Conference of Mayors 52nd Annual Spring Conference & Exposition

2015 BUDGET

Ordinance 2015-01 offered by Mr. O'Donnell:

TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER
CALENDAR YEAR 2015
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)
Ordinance 2015-01

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 1.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Chester, in the County of Morris, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2015 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that a 2.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$158,911.28** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated, as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Township of Chester, in the County of Morris, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2015 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Chester shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40:-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to **\$8,223,658.98** and that the CY 2015 municipal budget for the Township of Chester be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IF FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IF FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon be field with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion: O'Donnell Second: Kass

Mayor and Council discussed the 2015 municipal budget. CFO Macchia advised that the Township's ratio relative to the Borough for shared services may be

shifting from 83/17 to 80/20. The Borough is currently appealing to the County Tax Board. Mayor and Council discussed the impact of this change.

Cm. Kass discussed an nj.com article on the failure of the "Morris model" solar projects. Administrator Collins was directed to contact the Chester School Business Administrator regarding the impact on the solar fields at Black River School and Dickerson School.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

Resolution 2015-25 offered by Mr. O'Donnell:

2015 Budget Introduction (resolution attached to the end of these minutes)

Motion: O'Donnell Second: Spinelli

Cm. Kass proposed that the reserve for uncollected taxes be reduced. It was agreed that a meeting would be set up with the Township auditor to review this proposal.

Mayor and Council discussed the addition of the salt shed to the capital plan, and the estimated cost of \$500,000. It was agreed that this project would be reviewed with the DPW Superintendent.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

The public hearing for the 2015 Municipal Budget will be March 17.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2015-26 offered by Ms. Powell:

**Resolution 2015-26
Authorizing Emergency Purchase
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6, it was determined that an immediate emergency existed due to extreme weather conditions resulting in a State of Emergency being declared on January 26, 2015; and

WHEREAS the availability to procure bulk salt became difficult due to the emergency conditions from this event and successive weather events, and the Superintendent of the Public Works Department took necessary steps to secure delivery of said materials.

WHEREAS, it was determined by the Township Council of the Township of Chester that an emergency affecting the public health, safety or welfare existed and required the immediate delivery of goods and/or the performance of services concerning the receipt and delivery of materials pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.

WHEREAS due to the emergent nature of the situation the Township Council of the Township of Chester found it necessary to purchase bulk salt from Winter Technologies of Ringwood NJ. Total cost of purchase was \$44,500.00.

One certified copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

Motion: Powell Second: Spinelli

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

Resolution 2015-27 and 2015-28 offered by Mr. Kass:

**Resolution 2015-27
Morris County 4-H
Use of Chubb Park for Annual 4 H Fair**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Chester that approval is hereby given to the Morris County 4-H Association for use of Chubb Park, for their Annual 4-H Fair, July 7 to July 22, 2015, subject to conditions and recommendations as outlined by the Chester Parks Advisory Committee in a memo dated January 19, 2015.

Approval is hereby given for a Fireworks Display on Friday, July 17, 2015, raindate Saturday, July 18, 2015.

Fees associated with erecting tents, electrical inspections and any other fees, with the exception of NJ State Inspections and Legalized Games of Chance Fees, are waived.

**Township of Chester
Resolution 2015-28
Chester Fire Company
Use of Chubb Park for Annual Carnival**

Be it resolved by the Township Council of the Township of Chester that approval is hereby given to the Chester Fire Company for use of Chubb Park, for their Annual Fire Company Carnival and Fireworks at the Chubb Park Show grounds (June 17 to July 1, 2015) subject to conditions and recommendations as outlined by the Chester Parks Advisory Committee in a memo dated January 19, 2015.

Approval is hereby given for a Fireworks Display on Friday, June 26, 2015, Rain Date Saturday, June 27, 2015.

Fees associated with erecting tents, electrical inspections and any other fees, with the exception of NJ State Inspections and Legalized Games of Chance Fees, are waived.

Sale of Beer is approved in restricted area for adults.

Motion: Kass Second: O'Donnell

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, Off-Premise 50/50, April 25, 2015,
Hilltop Christian Nursery School

On-Premise 50/50, Off-Premise 50/50, Non-Draw Raffles, Chester
Volunteer Fire Co #1

Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle, May 30, 2015, Mane Stream

Motion to approve applications listed above: O'Donnell Second: Kass

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

MISCELLANEOUS

Parks Committee Resignation

Motion was made by Mr. Kass and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to accept, with regret, the resignation of John Strampfer from the Parks Committee.

YEAS: Spinelli, O'Donnell, Kass, Powell, Cogger NAYS: None

Bucket Truck

Cm. O'Donnell advised that the DPW Superintendent had located two bucket trucks for sale on Gov Deals. The trucks are being sold by the TVA and are located in Tennessee. After some discussion it was agreed that the Township would not bid on these trucks.

Glenlora

Cm. O'Donnell stated he would like direction from the Mayor and Council as to what is being done with Glenlora, as he has been contacted by several parties interested in purchasing the property. Mayor and Council discussed Glenlora, the COAH obligation associated with this property, and the impact upon this obligation were this property to be sold. Mayor Cogger stated that the property should be sold only if the buyer would provide for the movement of the COAH units from Glenlora to elsewhere in the township. It was agreed that the property will known longer be shown unless the interested property can provide the needed COAH units.

DPW Contract

Cw. Powell advised that the Township has been contacted by the PERC-appointed mediator, and the proposed dates for the mediation are March 30 or March 31. The attorneys will meet first, and then one meeting with the mediator will be held.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

With no further public business, Mayor Cogger adjourned the meeting at 10:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Collins
Township Clerk/Administrator