

## APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 AGENDA SESSION

President Wollert called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read the Open Public Meeting Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

### ROLL CALL

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter - Present        | Jim McManimon, Administrator   |
| ▪ Ms. Hyser – Present         | Maeve Cannon, Attorney         |
| ▪ Mr. Murphy - Present        | Joanna Mustafa, CFO            |
| ▪ Mr. Summiel - Present       | Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Wollert – Present |                                |

President Wollert explained that she is moving the departmental budget review to the top before discussion.

### DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW

#### 1. Clerk

Clerk Kim Macellaro stated that her budget had not changed from the previous year. With the consolidation of the districts from 32 to 28, the cost for elections should be around the same, even with it being a Presidential year and having three of our Council seats up for election. She stated that even with a retirement in July of 2011 and the addition of Susan Bate, who has been a real asset, our salary budget is down substantially. Paper costs will decrease with the addition of the Ipads and she will piggy-back off of recreation grant money for the shredding of boxes that have served their retention period.

#### 2. Construction

Construction Official Bill Erney stated that they have 5 different division, construction, planning, zoning, fire prevention and housing. He stated that his budget stayed the same as last year. The only thing he asks for is another secretary, due to adding a lot of extra duties with the additional enforcement. President Wollert asked about the demo and that the township would ultimately be reimbursed from those properties that have not paid their taxes and they would then be subject to the tax lien sale to recover that money. Mr. Erney responded. After some additional questions from Council, President Wollert thanked Mr. Erney for his presentation.

#### 3. Court

Maryann Convenio, Court Administrator, started by saying that there are seven staff members in her office, including herself. She has four part time security officers and one part time clerk, which recently became full time. She stated that her budget doesn't change much from year to year. The budget is for operating expenses for forms, CD's, tickets for the police department and law books for the judge. They have two main contracts for equipment and just upgraded the sound equipment. The other equipment is the video equipment that they use for the prisoners. Mr. Summiel asked if there were any balances left from the last fiscal year. CFO responded that they hadn't used all of their money. Ms. Convenio stated that they need to leave a cushion in the account for interpreters, because it is hard to judge how often they will need them.

#### 4. EMS

Paul Rulkiewicz stated that besides himself, there are 4 additional employees. They operate Monday through Friday, from six in the morning until ten at night. They charge for their services and bill the insurance companies. They do not go out for collection. He gave a brief overview of his charges. He said that they use toughbooks for their charts (paid for by State Health and Senior Services) and have gone completely paperless. His budget has not

changed in the last couple of years. After some questions from Council, President Wollert thanked Mr. Rulkiewicz for his time and presentation.

## 5. Fire

Douglas Brower from Prospect Heights (Station 31) stated that he requested \$225,000 as an operating budget and said that \$195,000 was appropriated. They hold fund drives and fundraisers that support their functions. He said that Ewing Township should be proud of what they have as volunteers. He is proud of all the volunteers because they work hard.

Chief Lenarski thought that it was helpful to return back to quarterly payments. The advantage is that they can move it around as needed. What is suffering on their end, is that the equipment is getting older. Equipment has been neglected and the estimated cost to maintain the trucks is growing. They have cut out cell phones, only the three chiefs have them. The cost for repairs on the trucks is not less than \$20,000. They pride themselves by doing a lot of their own maintenance and they are also looking at ways to reduce apparatus in the future. President Wollert wanted to echo Chief Lenarski's request by saying that the main issue is making sure they get back on track with regular replacement and upgrading of equipment.

Chief Conti (Pennington Road) asked for \$225,000 and was appropriated \$190,000. Last year they did go over the \$190,000 budget due to maintenance. They had some unexpected repairs that they did not budget for. He reiterated that they need to do things to retain their volunteers. Unfortunately, they are not knocking their doors down. They are going to try and handle it through the Fire Advisory Board but asked for Council's support. He stated that a lot of money is spent on training so that the firefighters can be safe.

Chief Mike Anderson spoke on behalf of West Trenton. \$229,000 budget and were appropriated \$190,000. Financial status has been better. They are not late with payments. They are controlling it better. Their costs are higher due to a bigger building. This past year, they have had higher costs in repairs. They had one engine repair of over \$20,000.00. There are not that many people who are qualified to work on the apparatus, so they are limited to vendors that provide the service to repair them. Training is a big cost. Improvement and retention is a big factor. President Wollert asked how old the apparatus is, to which Chief Anderson replied. Mr. Baxter asked about renting out the halls and if it helps with offsetting the gap in the budget. Chief Anderson said that renting the hall, Casino nights and the fundraising definitely helps. Mr. Summiel asked how many active members they have. Chief Anderson stated that they have 20 members, but that 10 carry the bulk of the load.

Chief Mike Anderson then talked about the paid career staff. He submitted a budget of \$686,360.91 which consists of salaries and other contractual issues and overtime. He stated that some of the career staff are not members of the fire company. President Wollert asked about the per diem rate and Chief Anderson replied. President Wollert stated that the bulk of their budget is contractual issues.

## 6. Police

Chief Coulton, of the Police Department, started by saying that they are doing more with less. They have 70 sworn officers, 10 civilian dispatchers and 3 civilian clerical workers. They initially submitted a \$371,000 budget and it was decreased to \$316,000 for the year. They do live within their budget every year. The major parts of their budget are for vehicle leasing and maintenance. Mr. Murphy asked if Ewing was feeling the affects of the Trenton cutbacks. Chief Coulton said they have seen a slight spike in burglaries in the last six months. Ms. Hyser asked that with a decrease in personnel, is the township seeing an increase in overtime in the police department. He said the overtime has increased but not substantially. Mr. Murphy asked for a list by year, going back 25 years, of all the sworn officers.

## 7. Public Works

Public Works Director, Angelo Capuano, said that they have forty-five members in the Public Works Department, down twenty members from five years ago. 9 supervisors, 2 support staff, 5 men who are currently in Central Maintenance who fix the vehicles and fleets. So it leaves 29 men on the roads to do parks, brush pick up, leaves and snow removal. Operating costs for Central Maintenance is \$173,000, up \$1800 because of uniforms. Buildings and Grounds is \$83,925, up \$8,925 again for uniforms. Park Maintenance is \$54,800, up \$10,800 (including sanitation) for uniforms. Road Division is

\$77,515, up \$6300 for uniforms. Mr. Summiel asked how Mr. Capuano perceives his operations under the current arrangement of forty-five employees. Mr. Capuano stated that it has been tough. As short staffed as they are, they have done the best they can. Ms. Hyser asked if the township is maintaining all of our parks, or do we have private contractors helping us, with regard to our ball fields specifically. Mr. Capuano stated that we have some agreements with private contractors. The township cuts the grass at the Fasolino fields, but they do everything else. President Wollert thanked Mr. Capuano for coming and for his time.

## **8. IT**

Rob Green from the IT department gave a brief overview of his budget. He stated that his budget is down from last year due to reduction in printers and using less toner. He moved some line items that were charged to his department to the correct departments that should have been charged. President Wollert asked about the new large scanner that Mr. Green has in his office and would it be available to all departments on an as needed basis. He said that he could make it available to other departments.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ELSA AND HAMPTONS AT HOPWELL, LLC AND TOWNSHIP OF EWING –**

Attorney Cannon explained that the agreement will go forward whether the referendum is defeated or approved. The amount that the township is paid will depend on the approval or defeat of the referendum. After some questions from Council to our attorney, the Resolution was added to New Business.

### **2. A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 12R-36-Gardens at Birmingham –** President Wollert introduced Barbara Schoor, Vice President of Community Investment Strategies. Their company has been invited to participate, by Mr. Barry Ranke, with the Gardens at Birmingham Project. Developing affordable housing is a very complex undertaking and that is why they were brought on board. Her company has identified some areas that need to be tweaked. She commented that they are not changing the percentage previously agreed upon, but that they are eliminating the designation in the agreement that set aside 3 bedroom units.

### **3. AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION #11R-209 TO ELIMINATE BEDROOM DISTRIBUTION FROM RESOLUTION OF NEED FOR 48 UNIT BIRMINGHAM GARDENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT LOCATED AT 1460 PARKWAY AVENUE, EWING TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY –** President Wollert clarified that the Resolution of Need previously adopted broke down the apartments by number of bedrooms. The resolution of need that we are looking to amend, is basically the same resolution, saying the need is still the same, however, at the request of the developer and their recommendation, council is being asked to remove the numbers of apartments specified. The total number is still 48. But rather than particularly specifying in the certificate of need, the breakdown of so many, three bedrooms, two bedrooms, etc, it is just a need for this number of units because they are all moderate income affordable housing.

### **4. RESOLUTION COMMITTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR BIRMINGHAM GARDENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT-**Barbara Schoor, Vice President of Community Investment Strategies stated that she put before Council a resolution asking for their commitment of affordable housing funds. President Wollert stated that they are asking for a commitment of up to \$250,000.

Mr. Murphy asked what impact, with full occupancy, will this have on the number of students going to school. Ms. Schoor stated that our planner provided a report dated March 24<sup>th</sup> which indicates 21 students, based on an industry study done by Rutgers. Ms. Hyser asked if CIS came on board to manage the property or are they partners. President of CIS, Chris Foglio, said they have been presented with the

opportunity to be the property managers, they will be constructing this and they have 50% joint venture in this project, meaning that they have equal voices in the ownership of the project. Ms. Hyser asked if the COAH spending plan was completed. Attorney Cannon stated that Planner Chuck Latini is working on it. After much discussion, all three resolutions will be added to New Business for the Regular Meeting.

5. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE SEWER REMITTANCE DUE DATE AND SUBSEQUENT GRACE PERIOD FOR THE APRIL 1, 2012 SEWER BILL TO THE DATES OF JUNE 1ST AND 10TH, 2012 RESPECTIVELY – Administrator McManimon stated that upon adoption of this resolution, it gives the residents a 10 day extension, once they receive their bill to pay. President Wollert added this to New Business for the Regular Meeting.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

President Wollert presented the Consent Agenda for review.

1. Authorization for the Chief Financial Officer to pay Township bills in the amount of \$585,986.18.
2. A Resolution authorizing the conduct of an On Premise Merchandise Raffle sponsored by The Children's Home Society on May 11, 2012
3. A Resolution authorizing the conduct of an On Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle sponsored by The Children's Home Society on May 11, 2012
4. A Resolution authorizing the conduct of a Bingo Night sponsored by The Children's Home Society on May 11, 2012

There being no questions, this was added to the agenda for action at the Regular Meeting.

#### ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

(None for this meeting)

#### ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, REGARDING THE DELIVERY OF UNSUBSCRIBED AND UNSOLICITED PUBLICATIONS (2012)
2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, ADDING FEES IN CHAPTER 172, FEES, FOR INFORMAL CONCEPT SITE REVIEW (2012)
3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ESTABLISH RANGES FOR SEWER RATES AND CHARGES (2012)
4. ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$50,000 INCLUDING \$47,500 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE HOCKEY RINK AT CARLTON AVENUE PARK, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY (2012)

Administrator McManimon commented that some folks that are supporters of the hockey rink were in the audience and he thanked them for their patience and he said that they came to show their support. President Wollert stated that she appreciated them being here and said that at the Regular Meeting there would be a public hearing before final adoption and she welcomed all of them to attend and comment.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Wollert presented the New Business agenda for review.

1. A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MARC S. WEINROTH TO THE RENT CONTROL BOARD – President Wollert explained.
2. A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ROCHELLE HARDIE TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD – President Wollert explained.
3. A RESOLUTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION – Ms. Hyser asked for an explanation. CFO Mustafa stated that the temporary budget that was adopted on January covered 26.25% of the budget up until March 31<sup>st</sup>. She said she is hoping to have the budget adopted within the next week but until then we have to due one months' worth of appropriations.
4. A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2012 AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH – President Wollert explained.
5. A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SEWER RATES AND CHARGES FOR EWING TOWNSHIP – Mr. Summiel asked about the language in the resolution and Attorney Cannon responded by saying that the resolution can be changed because it is a de minimis change.

The New Business agenda was established for action.

### STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ron Dykus (170 Upper Ferry Road) concurred with Mr. Murphy about the schools and how much it will cost the township. He feels that 21 students is a low number. He also talked about the police and how many squads they have on the street and privatizing trash. Donna Lewis (44 Clement Avenue) provided Council with a letter from her son, Sasha, who spoke in favor of upgrading the hockey rink. She stated that the kids who utilize the rink are willing to do the work. They are willing to teach kids and run programs. She stated that not every kids plays soccer and basketball. Ron Prykanowski (10 Thurston Avenue) stated that the COAH rules have changed and you cannot market to Ewing residents first, it has to be statewide. He also commented about ELSA.

There being no further business, President Wollert asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hyser so moved seconded by Mr. Summiel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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Kathy Wollert, Council President

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Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk