

**NORTH HANOVER TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 9, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Durr called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Durr

ROLL CALL: Mayor Durr
Deputy Mayor Butler
Committeeman Delorenzo
Committeeman Kocubinski
Committeeman O'Donnell

Also Present: Acting Township Clerk Picariello and CFO Jack Bruno

SUNSHINE STATEMENT: “The provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met. Notice of this meeting has been transmitted by email to the Courier Post, Burlington County Times and The Trenton Times as well as given to those having requested same and posted on the Township bulletin board located in the foyer of the municipal building”.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mayor Durr opened the meeting for the public. There was no public comment.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT
Proposed By: Committeeman DeLorenzo
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Butler

BUDGET WORKSHOP
Mayor Durr explained this was a continuation of a review of the budget. Mayor Durr stated there were some questions that the CFO would be able to answer. Mr. Bruno gave a synopsis of how to finance cars for the police department and information regarding car cameras and the firehouse apron. Committeeman Kocubinski inquired about the fund balance. Mayor Durr asked CFO Bruno to give an explanation of the surplus and deferred school taxes. CFO Bruno reviewed various aspects of the deferred school tax and the CAP law. He reviewed the history and laws pertaining to a school tax deferral and noted it used to be required. Committeeman O'Donnell inquired as to the sustainable level of surplus. CFO Bruno gave a synopsis and noted his efforts to increase the surplus. He stated surplus offset's the taxes and the importance of not spending more than you budget. CFO Bruno reviewed the history of the surplus. CFO Bruno noted deferred school tax is not a debt and not required to be on the financials as a debt service. He stated it is a debt liability and not due until it is requisitioned. CFO Bruno also discussed the eligibility requirements for a deferral. Mayor Durr noted the only way to use less school taxes would be to raise taxes and we are currently at CAP. CFO Bruno noted \$510,000 of the \$700,000 surplus was used. He is confident that the surplus would be the same next year. Committeeman Kocubinski noted his unwillingness to continue this track. Mayor Durr asked if Committeeman Kocubinski had a solution. Committeeman Kocubinski stated we should use the minimum amount necessary. CFO Bruno said we are forced to operate under these constraints and there is no down side to deferring. Mayor Durr stated he understands all the concerns and thanked CFO Bruno for his explanation. CFO Bruno stated the bond rating companies do not see a school deferral as a negative. Committeeman O'Donnell inquired about the \$90,000 for engineer being cut out. CFO Bruno noted it was being taken out. Committeeman Kocubinski is hoping the legislation regarding the energy receipts goes through and feels this would help increase the surplus. Mayor Durr asked if there were any questions regarding revenue. CFO Bruno noted the limits on anticipating revenue. Committeeman O'Donnell inquired about raises for the employees. Mayor Durr noted the history of a 2% raise. Committeeman Kocubinski noted Social Security was flat, but was agreeable to the raise. There was a general consensus to give the raise. Mayor Durr noted we are ready to introduce on March 17th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
Proposed By: Committeeman DeLorenzo
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Butler

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: **8:16 pm**
Respectively submitted,

Mary Picariello
Acting Township Clerk