

**NORTH HANOVER TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2018, 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor DeBaecke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor DeBaecke

ROLL CALL: Mayor DeBaecke
Deputy Mayor O'Donnell
Committeeman DeLorenzo
Committeeman Doyle
Committeeman Kocubinski – entered 6:20 p.m.

Absent: None

Also Present: Mary Picariello, Township Clerk and Joseph Greene, Treasurer, Jack Bruno, CFO, and Douglas Bacher, Financial Advisor

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 (EXCLUDES ORDINANCES-they have their own public hearing): Members of the public wishing to address the Township Committee must state their name and address for the record.

Mayor DeBaecke opened the meeting to the public. There were no public comments.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

Proposed By: Committeeman Doyle

Seconded By: Committeeman DeLorenzo

BUDGET WORKSHOP – Clerk Picariello reminded the Township Committee that their direction to CFO Bruno, from the last workshop, was to form the budget adding \$10,000 to buildings and grounds and \$25,000 to the pension obligation. CFO Bruno noted this equated to 2.67 cent increase or \$123,000 on the levy. He stated it would be \$80 per household based on the average assessed valuation of \$300,000. He stated it was within CAP and stated 1,515,000 is the CAP max and this budget was under the CAP max. He stated part of the CAP bank was being used. Committeeman DeLorenzo inquired the cost to run the Police Department. CFO Bruno noted \$648,000 and contract negotiations were being taken into consideration. Joseph Green said we saved on health insurance due to full-time employees leaving and part-time coming on. Deputy Mayor O'Donnell noted the mission of the department had changed over the years to include a detective. Mayor DeBaecke inquired with the Township Committee concerning their thoughts regarding the increase. He stated there were several choices; the increase, deferred school tax or looking for cuts. There was a general consensus that we were operating in a fiscally responsible manner and they want to stay away from the deferred school tax. CFO Bruno noted the revenues appear to be sustainable and does not wish to push them any further. Committeeman Doyle stated new revenue ideas need to be explored and made inquiry about police over-time. Committeeman Kocubinski expressed concerns over the debt service.

Committeeman O'Donnell noted the presence of Rita Williams, Court Administrator to answer any questions concerning her proposal. Ms. Williams noted several factors as a basis for her request and requested the Township Committee's consideration for a raise. She stated her years of experience, her masters in criminal justice, similar courts and her work load. Deputy Mayor O'Donnell asked for an explanation of “call-outs”. Ms. Williams provided it. Mayor DeBaecke noted it was something to consider. Committeeman DeLorenzo noted the downsizing and that 2 percent was the norm. Deputy Mayor O'Donnell noted maybe in 6 months it could be revisited and CFO Bruno noted he could handle it within the budget should a decision be made after discussions with Chesterfield Court. Mayor DeBaecke noted he will be meeting with Chesterfield shortly. Committeeman Doyle noted the police chief was asking for additional funding for an employee in his department. CFO Bruno noted if Chesterfield departs the Court Office staffing would have to be addressed along with the professional salaries or exploring other options for the operation. Joe Green noted the split was 65/35 and the new calculation is 55/45 based on work load. CFO Bruno noted if there was no work from Chesterfield then North Hanover would be absorbing 100 percent of the Court.

There was discussion regarding North Hanover being a “bedroom” community and it was the consensus of the community to have that. Introduction would take place April 5th and CFO inquired about any other capital needs. There was none at this time.

CFO Bruno reviewed options for bond financing and noted consideration needs to be given to entering into long term. Financial Advisor Bacher discussed market risks, reviewed rates and gave details concerning refinancing. He discussed the possible need to go before the Local Finance Board to discuss the expiring debt service. He noted he would like to wait a month to see who the new director would be. Committeeman Kocubinski stated numbers need to be given to

determine the path and discussed the deferred school tax. There was a general consensus to have Mr. Bacher begin exploring prudent options.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Proposed By: Deputy Mayor O'Donnell

Seconded By: Committeeman Kocubinski

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: **7:24 PM**

Respectively submitted,

Mary Picariello, RMC/CMR/CTC
Township Clerk