

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON
SPECIAL MEETING**

MARCH 11, 2009

6:30 P.M.

Council President Stinney announced that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call.

PRESENT

Ken Cartier
Tom Inge
Richard Prickett
Diane Stinney

ABSENT

Sherry Scull

Also present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Chris Vaz, Township Clerk Mary Ann Young

Chairman Stinney called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FORMAL ACTION, AS ADVERTISED: For the purpose of discussing the 2009 Municipal Budget as presented by the Mayor. Formal action will be taken which may include the introduction of the 2009 municipal budget upon completion or of the review process.

Mrs. Stinney informed Council will be reviewing and voting on each departments' budget. Council will attempt to cover as many departments today as possible and will continue where left off at each previous meeting until Council is done. Council has the option and flexibility to go through any section of the budget in the order they determine is appropriate given the length of time needed for each section discussion. There will be a general public comment portion open to the public at approximately 8:30 pm. Mr. Cartier and Mr. Inge agreed with the time for public comments. Mr. Prickett commented that 8:30 for public comments is kind of late but he agreed. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Prickett if he would like to suggest something else. Mr. Prickett suggested 8:00 pm. Mr. Cartier and Mr. Inge agreed to 8:00 pm. Mrs. Stinney informed general public comments will be at 8:00 pm unless Council is ready or is just nearly done with a section at that time, will conclude that section then immediately open the meeting for public comments then. Mrs. Stinney advised for the record for the public there is open discussion with Council where they kind of jump in and ask the questions on line items and those sorts of things. Council is not as formal as they are with a regular Council meeting to give every the opportunity.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT #252

Mrs. Stinney advised Council is starting on page 34 of 91. Mr. Prickett asked if there is a section in the supplemental book. Mrs. Stinney answered she did not see one and she knows last time Mr. Prickett asked if maybe someone might have something that he doesn't have but she didn't see one. Mr. Prickett commented that has happened and that is why he asked. Mrs. Stinney asked Council if anyone has one in their book. Mr. Cartier replied there isn't one. Council President

Stinney asked the public if the screen is visual to everyone because it can be turned around as it was last time and she wants to make sure it is comfortable to everyone. Mr. Tamn suggested turning off a light. Mrs. Stinney suggested they sit somewhere else and commented that she didn't know about turning off a light as Council does not see too well in the dark. Mayor Patriarca added there was a light off before and it is a little dark if trying to take notes and he would advise if they could move closer to the other side of the room and closer to the screen it would make it a lot easier to see. Mrs. Stinney confirmed Council did not have any questions on page 34 of 91 and moved on to 35 of 91. Mr. Prickett stated he has questions on a number of things. What interests him most are the physicals. We have requested \$9,000 for physicals.....Mrs. Stinney asked for the record where Mr. Prickett is. Mr. Prickett informed he is on line item 09300 and asked what is the plan for making sure that the volunteer firemen get their physicals this year. Last year we appropriated \$9,000 for that to be done and this shows only \$1,900 was spent so not all of the fire people he believes got their physicals. Mr. Prickett was wondering if that is going change this year and is there a plan in place to make sure that our volunteer firemen are given physicals. Mr. Vaz explained what happened was they were trying to get the Magnolia Road Fire Company done first because they were the ones that were under the PEOSHA order. What we learned while doing that was that Virtua which is the company that does this for us, they were not aware of the specific type of physical that they needed to do for us. So we had to go through the process of educating them on what we were asking for and what was required. It's more than a physical; it's a physical to be a fire fighter and also the test that they do to make sure that a persons' face adequately fits the SCBA mask. That took a lot of time to iron out because we had firemen going up there and coming back and he would get a fax and look at it and say this isn't going to satisfy PEOSHA so we were back and forth with Virtua, PEOSHA and the fire company. That's all behind us at this point and the Chief's have been asked to ramp up to get all of their fire fighters over to Virtua to take care of this. Mr. Prickett noted Council has not had department reports as long as he can remember, at least the written version and he was hoping that perhaps Mr. Vaz could provide Council with a monthly progress of the physicals taking place in the fire companies. Mr. Prickett express that he would really like to know that the fire fighters are getting their physicals. Mrs. Stinney asked if that was a mandate by the state. Mr. Vaz responded that part of it is and he doesn't think all of it is and the other part of it is something that we want to do to ensure that the fire fighters are fit to do that. Mr. Prickett started at the first line, Advertising, line item 02100 and \$1,000 was budgeted last year, nothing was expended and there is a request for another \$1,000 this year. Mr. Prickett asked what that would be used for. Mr. Vaz explained with the exception of the contract service line and the physical drug testing line, all of these other lines are contingency lines. If OEM had to advertise something, for instance we knew there was a hurricane barreling down on Pemberton; we had advance notice, they have money to do the advertising in the different newspapers. Mr. Vaz reiterated that they are contingency lines. Mr. Prickett asked about the contract service and asked what the contingency is and what kind of contract service would you be possibly looking to engage. Mr. Vaz answered service on the cascade system at Browns Mills Fire Company. Mr. Prickett asked if that is the air....Mr. Vaz interjected refilling the bottles. Mr. Prickett relayed those are the only questions that he has at the moment.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 252 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Prickett stated that he would like to again as he stated at the last meeting, reserve the right to come back and revisit these sections. This is just a preliminary approval. Mrs. Stinney agreed.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL DIVISION DEPARTMENT 255

Mrs. Stinney remarked Council is on page 36 of 91. Mrs. Stinney thanked _____ for the clarification of contracted services, line item 2-15005. Mr. Cartier asked what was the clarification. Mrs. Stinney answered the clarification is why that line states contracted services and asked the Mayor to provide it again. The Mayor explained the reason that is worded as such is because it's reserved with the intent of bringing Goodwill in to that position but it is not locked in to that position. If Goodwill would choose not to contract with us, that leaves us the option now to contract with someone else. Mr. Cartier commented it is the same as last year and that's why we changed it last year. Mr. Cartier informed he has a question concerning that line and if he missed it he apologizes, but what we expended \$24,000 on that line last year for. Mayor Patriarca explained they are encumbered in the event that we were to award that. We are still negotiating with Goodwill for 2008. We settled 2007 and are working on 2008 and hope to work on 2009 but that money is encumbered. It was funded for a company last year and we are still working out some details with them. Mr. Cartier asked if they were under contract. Mayor Patriarca replied no. Mr. Prickett asked if we just have the \$24,000 encumbered or are there previous years. The Mayor replied \$24,000 for 2008. Mr. Prickett asked if there is anything encumbered for 2007 or 2006. Mayor Patriarca replied no, they have been paid. Mr. Prickett asked if expended means encumbered. Mr. Vaz responded in this case, yes. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Cartier, Mr. Inge and Mr. Prickett if they had any more questions on page 36 of 91. All replied no.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 255 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

AID TO EMERGENCY SQUADS DEPARTMENT #260

Mrs. Stinney noted that Council is now on page 37 of 91. Mrs. Stinney commented on the funding of line item 2-15104 and asked the Mayor to provide a statement that she asked for. Mayor Patriarca informed that came as a result of a request from the Chief of Presidential Lakes Fire and Rescue to keep a portion of the allotment in to their company at this time because they depend on that for the combination of their two companies, fire rescue. They admit and came to Administration and felt that the fact that they weren't getting out and weren't as active that they should reduce that to help with the budget and certainly we appreciated that offer and accepted that offer. They've turned in one rig at this point to the Township and have taken a reduction but they are on a campaign to try and revitalize their unit and that's why they did ask that we only reduce it by half. Mrs. Stinney thanked the Mayor for the explanation. Mr. Prickett asked the Mayor if they still have a rig. Mayor Patriarca replied yes. Mrs. Stinney asked Council if they had any more questions and thanked the Mayor again. Mr. Prickett commented that maybe he should follow that question up with they still have a rig and how many miles are on that rig and what shape is it in. Mayor Patriarca replied that we thought the rig they turned in was a decent rig and better than some of the other ones that we have. The one they have is newer than that and he is not sure of the mileage but they kept the better of the two and we are actually putting

the other rig that they turned in back in service with one of the other squads. Mr. Prickett thanked the Mayor.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 260 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

PAID AMBULANCE SERVICE DEPARTMENT #262

Mrs. Stinney informed Council is now on page 38 of 91. Mr. Cartier expressed concern with the decrease in the line and asked if there is enough to sustain that service. Mr. Vaz stated it is contractual that is in the requested lines. Mr. Cartier asked if they are already under contract for the rest of the year. Mr. Vaz replied yes. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Inge if he had any questions. Someone is commenting but they are inaudible. Mrs. Stinney commented we have to handle this. Mr. Prickett noted he might be able to handle it when he makes his comments. Mr. Prickett commented that last year we budgeted \$60,000 for the contract service and expended \$58,900 and this year Administration is requesting \$55,200 for the service. Their charge has actually gone down and asked if we went out to bid for these as this is a biddable service. Mr. Vaz informed we did. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Vaz to refresh Council's minds on that. Mr. Vaz answered that the one thing that comes to mind is that when we went out to bid it was for a two year contract. It's likely that the reduction is due to the certainty that they have a two year contract vs. a twelve month contract. Off the top of his head, he does not know why it was at \$60,000 unless Mrs. Eden knows but.....Mr. Prickett interjected the contract we might not have gone out to bid at that point and might have only had preliminary numbers. Mr. Vaz recalled that we were out of contract for a few months and we paid them month to month so they extended for2008 is going to show a little higher than the actual contracted amount. Mr. Prickett reiterated that Council has not heard too much about the response of the contract service; how it's working out and Council certainly hasn't received any written reports on this and was wondering if Council could get some kind of evaluation of how they have performed over the last year. Mr. Vaz replied yes. Mrs. Stinney remarked to the public that she will try to get those questions answered and she just needs to make sure that Council stays within order. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any other questions on Department 262.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 262 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

FIRE HYDRANT RENTAL DEPARTMENT #265

Mr. Cartier indicated that he does not have page 39 of 91. Mrs. Young also stated she does not have a page 39. Mr. Vaz informed that he and Mrs. Eden inserted page 39 in to the budget books independently and it may be under the Utilities tab or under Fire. Council and Mrs. Young confirmed they have page 39. Mr. Cartier stated it has gone up \$300 and asked if we've received new fees for the fire hydrant rentals. Mr. Vaz informed there is a rate increase. Mr. Inge did not have any questions. Mr. Prickett asked if these fire hydrants are in Sunbury Village with the American Water Company because that's the only place that we have hydrants that aren't getting water from our system. Mr. Vaz replied yes. Mr. Prickett commented that before the Township purchased the Lake Valley Water Company, this was a \$21,000 plus item because we had to pay for the hydrants in

the Lake Valley area and Rottau Village as well. Mr. Prickett added that is an awful lot of money to go up and hopefully they are not used very often.

Motion by Prickett and Cartier to approve Department 265 as presented by the Mayor. Prickett, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR DEPARTMENT #275

Mrs. Stinney advised Council is now on page 40 of 91. Mr. Prickett asked if Council is supposed to have more than one page. Mr. Vaz answered no. Mr. Prickett commented that he was just thinking about the public defender and alternate prosecutor and asked where they are located. Mrs. Stinney replied she guesses municipal court administration or.....Mr. Vaz informed some of it is under the trust. Mr. Inge and Mr. Cartier did not have any questions. Mayor Patriarca informed under the alternate prosecutor the prosecutor wouldn't get paid so we would still draw this line down and pay the alternate prosecutor. Mr. Prickett asked the Mayor to repeat his statement. The Mayor remarked that if we have to bring in a substitute prosecutor, this prosecutor wouldn't get paid for that period of time. Mr. Prickett commented that this is really a number that is based on the number of hours they work. Mayor Patriarca added the number of court sessions they attend. Mr. Prickett stated the alternate is actually covered under this. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any other questions.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 275 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT #290

Mrs. Stinney informed in the supplement book it starts off with Streets and Roads. Mrs. Stinney commented Council is on page 41 of 91. Mr. Cartier and Mr. Inge did not have any comments on salaries. Mr. Prickett stated last year we budgeted \$740,400, \$616,687 was expended and this year \$30,000 more is being requested, a little less than thirty, at \$771,900 and asked why did we expend less than we budgeted for last year. Mayor Patriarca answered because some of the funds used to fund this department last year were taken from insurance lines; individuals that were out for medical reasons. Mr. Prickett stated that less amount is because of medical situations. The Mayor agreed and added the budgeted amount was what was needed to run that department and last year it was also budgeted for six temporary employees we were going to bring in to do work around here and they are not in the budget this year so those salaries are not in and there is one individual that has left us. That equates to the difference of what was expended as opposed to what was budgeted. Mr. Prickett remarked that since we don't, the temporary, they probably weren't with Streets and Roads. Mayor Patriarca indicated that he thought they were under Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Prickett commented this is Streets and Roads, so.....The Mayor continued that this reflects the individual that was out last year being paid under the insurance and the individual that left, one driver that left us last year. Mr. Prickett asked why the requested amount is this year approximately a little less than \$30,000 than it was last year. Mr. Vaz indicated it reflects the tabulation of the work force that is in the table and it's really just the simple math of adding all of those individuals in the prior pages. Mr. Prickett asked if there are any new hires in here. Mr. Vaz and the Mayor both answered no. Mr. Prickett commented he sees on the first two pages and on the second page there is a person's name at the bottom of the column and

they don't have a title of any sort and asked for an explanation as to what they do. Mayor Patriarca informed that is the individual who we had working the gate down back and as a result of our plan that temporary employees were released and he was released early on but we did pay him a portion of the year and had to budget for that. The Mayor continued that Mr. Prickett will notice when we get to Buildings and Grounds that title has been added back, that position, to have somebody perform that function and preferably him if he is willing to come back because he was really good at it. Mr. Prickett stated he thought he was good at it. Mrs. Stinney commented that she doesn't know who they are talking about. Mr. Prickett asked Mrs. Stinney if she ever took any used oil....he didn't think so. Mrs. Stinney answered that she leaves that up to her husband. Mr. Prickett guessed no leaves either. Mrs. Stinney replied her husband or her children. Mayor Patriarca informed he checked his id when he went back there and he was very thorough. Mr. Prickett commented that is good to hear. Mr. Vaz informed his page has a note that the salary and wage line actually should be increased by \$100; it should be \$730,300 and not 200. Mr. Prickett asked if that is page 41. Mrs. Stinney answered yes. Mr. Vaz advised the note is actually on the previous page in the last column to the right where it states 72.71. Mr. Prickett commented that he doesn't see that and ask Mr. Vaz to repeat the information. Mr. Vaz and the Mayor stated it's on the second page of the salary sheets. Mr. Vaz specified it is the last column to the right, three quarters of the way down under salary and wages, there should be a note in the last column to add \$72.71. Mayor Patriarca informed the subtotal at the bottom of all the salaries is \$730,272.71 but when you come down to the salary and wages, it reflects a \$72.71 shortfall. Mrs. Stinney advised that she sees it and asked Mr. Prickett if he had it now. Mr. Prickett answered no and asked where he can put that amount. Mayor Patriarca informed it's the second page of the salary sheet, all the way to the right, go down about eight lines and it's \$730,272.71 and if you one number down where it's \$730,200, it should reflect \$730,272.71 or make it an even \$730,300. Mr. Cartier added the overall bottom line correction should be \$772,000. The Mayor and Mr. Vaz agreed. Mrs. Stinney noted for the record that it has been corrected by the Mayor. Mayor Patriarca stated he is only requesting Council does this and Council does the correcting but he knows what Mrs. Stinney means. Mrs. Stinney stated it is on the record. The Mayor informed Mr. Prickett to take the \$730,300 and add the 4% and add the overtime and the sick time and clothing and he'll see where that increase came from; it's from a contractual agreement and the added lines. Mr. Prickett thanked the Mayor. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any questions or comments. Mrs. Stinney advised Council is moving on to page 42 of 91. Mrs. Stinney noted for the public that we were afforded this year and it is really great a break down of the line items here and explanations as to as an example Advertisement under line item 2-02100 that Advertisement, Leaf Collection Ads and it covers 2 half page ads in the Community News. The next line item 2-02900 Contract Service, tree removal services is the removal of trees and wires that are too big for us to handle, spraying for gypsy moths, spraying on municipal owned properties, road striping, deer carcass removal and those items are itemized in the addendum book for us. Mr. Prickett informed his first question has to do with what Mrs. Stinney was referring to and that is the contract service and that is line item 2900 and as Mrs. Stinney stated that is road striping, deer carcass removal and gypsy moth spraying. Mr. Prickett remembered that road striping in the past has been around \$11,000 and asked for the breakdown of the line item 2900, Contractor Services. Mayor Patriarca informed there is not a break down amount and road striping would be done as needed and what would fit in the budget and the same for gypsy moth spraying depending on what trees were elected to do at what buildings. This is not

for the gypsy moth spraying throughout the town and is just for specialized areas that we would control. The same with deer carcass removal because it is somewhat anticipated and is based on previous years and they'll put a number together of what they anticipate. The Mayor continued that we'll take the striping as far as we can and we've been successful in working with the County and helping out with that and they've come in and cut the cost by putting striping down in areas and either not charging us or working it out in the shared service; we do something for them and they do something for us or if we had to pay for the material. In tree removal service, we really don't know because that goes by case by case. We get a tree that a resident calls and says your Township tree is leaning towards my house. If we can't get to it, we send a contracted service out to do it and that comes up periodically throughout the year. Mr. Prickett commented that we did get that bucket truck. Mayor Patriarca noted that we do use it for areas that we are able to have access to but there are some jobs that are just way too big for that truck and too dangerous. We use a professional service in town for that. Mr. Prickett asked how do we get billed for the deer carcass; we don't, it's not a contract.....Mrs. Stinney interjected through the County. Mr. Prickett continued \$20,000 a year or something.....Mayor Patriarca interjected not at all.....Mr. Prickett continued by unit.....Mrs. Stinney interjected per carcass.....The Mayor continued it is by unit and each one they pick up he wants to say \$75.00. Mrs. Stinney informed it is \$75.00. Mr. Prickett remarked the Police Department or anyone that sees a carcass can report that. Mayor Patriarca noted it is on a Township road and we don't pay for the ones that you mainly see in the Township and they are on County roads. Occasionally we get one in a residential area and we have to have it removed. Mr. Prickett asked how quickly they respond. Mayor Patriarca advised that sometimes it doesn't seem quick enough. The Mayor had a resident call him two days ago and said he hoped he didn't get in trouble but he just drug one out in to the woods. The Mayor felt like giving him \$35.00, half price, for savings us \$35.00 or \$75.00 but we didn't. Mayor Patriarca noted he didn't see any harm with what he did and he thanked him for what he did. Mr. Prickett referred to line 04700 Fees and Permits and noted that one is storm water and the other is the lake lowering permit. Mr. Prickett asked for a break down and guessed that the lake lowering permit is not too costly and the storm water permit fee is more costly. The Mayor informed Mr. Prickett that would be accurate and they are fixed fees and he doesn't have the break down on it. The Mayor reiterated they are fixed fees and last year we didn't do a lake lowering because we didn't get the permit in time to the state and it should be at the state now for this upcoming year and he made it clear. Mr. Prickett asked what is with the storm water permit fee. The Mayor answered it's the same thing every year, it's a fixed fee. The state charges us a permit fee. Mr. Prickett asked if they come out and inspect and if that is what that is for. Mayor Patriarca answered they could but he doesn't know that they do because he rides through neighboring towns he will leave nameless and he sees storm water violations constantly. The Mayor commented that he does know that our guys are on top of that and make it a point to run the sweeper when they schedule it so that we meet the requirements of the state and they get out and jet out our systems and clean out our storm water systems. Mayor Patriarca reiterated that our guys are on top of it; we get our leaves picked up in a timely fashion. Mr. Prickett stated that is what that fee is for so that the state can come in and make sure that the municipality is abiding by the storm water rules. The Mayor conveyed that is a good question why they would charge us to abide by the rules but we do. Mr. Prickett and Mr. Vaz are speaking at the same time and can't be heard. Mr. Vaz stated \$9,000 in 2008. Mr. Prickett thanked Mr. Vaz. Mrs. Stinney noted to the public that is walking in that if they can see the budget screen

and if not she asks if they could move up a little bit if they choose to do so. Mrs. Stinney commented that Mr. Tamn had previously suggested turning off a light but she can't function with a light off. Someone from the public is stating he thought he had to be here for 7:30. Mr. Vaz advised the editorial in the Burlington County Times had the wrong time apparently if that's where he got the meeting time from. 7:30 in the newspaper was wrong, it's 6:30. The gentleman is speaking again but is inaudible. Mr. Cartier informed this is not the Planning Board, it's a court room. Mr. Vaz advised this is our workshop meeting for the budget. Mrs. Stinney advised to the gentleman that it's okay but he is welcome. Mr. Cartier, the Mayor and Mr. Prickett commented its good that he spoke up. Mrs. Stinney stated to Mr. Prickett that Council is on Fees and Permits. Mr. Prickett spoke of line item 2-23500, Signs, and asked if that covered stop signs and any other signs as well. Mr. Cartier asked Mr. Prickett what page he is on. Mr. Prickett replied page 43. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Prickett to hold on as Council has not gone there yet. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any questions on page 42 of 91. Mr. Cartier and Mr. Inge did not have any questions. Mr. Prickett referenced line item 2-02908, Disposal Fees, in that we budgeted \$10,000 last year, expended \$12,500 and asked if the disposal fees are for oil, antifreeze or what. Mayor Patriarca replied we pay private haulers to come in and haul the leaves when we do leaf pick up and we pay dumpster fees for the sweepings. We have to maintain when we do the storm water management and we run our sweeper out to clean the roads, we have to now dispose of those pick ups properly and account for that. Mr. Prickett asked if that is the dumpster fee. Mayor Patriarca answered yes, from the sweeper. Mr. Vaz informed he is looking at the expenditures for 2008 and most of the descriptions are for hauling leaves and/or waste from the street sweeper and then there are a couple of notes about cleaning up an oil spill. Mr. Vaz added that was actually out back with the fuel pump. Mr. Prickett stated that was a diesel spill. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Vaz if that is one of the lines in the addendum book because he doesn't think he saw that. Mr. Vaz verified with Mr. Prickett if it is where he got the description and replied no. At the last meeting he had mentioned that Mrs. Eden was nice enough to print up for him this year all of the expenditures for each department so if Council had a question like that he could try to get a quick answer. Mr. Vaz informed they are available to Council if they want and the only reason Administration didn't make five copies was because it is close to 2,000 pages but they could probably be scanned if Council is interested. Mr. Vaz continued that for the time being he brought them to the meeting so we can try to find a quick answer. Mr. Prickett commented that he might come over and take a look but as we go along, he appreciates Mr. Vaz looking that information up for Council. Mayor Patriarca noted to keep in mind the descriptions that the department put together for what they generally use these line items for is not always what we would charge to that, at times such as this oil spill and we had to dispose of the product we would charge this line if there is a balance in this line we could now charge this line because it would be the appropriate line to cover something like that. We use the leaf disposal with the private company because we found that to be and even though it seems excessive in price, may and it doesn't to Administration because of what we've determined, we are able to take one truck from a contractor that comes in and maybe hauls a load out for \$100 whereas it would take us five trucks and five employees to run that same truck all the way to the disposal place so it's much more efficient to contract this out and then our employees are doing other tasks. Mr. Prickett commented that makes perfect sense and thanked the Mayor. Mrs. Stinney reported that Council is now on page 43 of 91. Mrs. Stinney reminded Mr. Prickett of his comment on Signs, line item 23500. Mr. Prickett remembered that his question originally he was thinking that is usually

\$10,000 but he thinks as a result of the survey conducted by the Police Department on intersections that needed stop signs, they generated a list and that list was eventually approved by the Department of Transportation and so that's why we have this extra amount for those extra stop signs and those extra situations. Mr. Vaz answered Mr. Prickett is totally right on why the money is in there; it has to do with the signs based on the list that Council approved by ordinance. Just to be factually correct, DOT did not approve the ordinance, they sent it back to us to conduct surveys at each of those intersections and the Police Department has started that project about a month ago taking five at a time because the process is quite involved. In the meantime, the state law changed giving towns more internal control over the process. It still requires some sort of study but it's something that you can actually have your engineer certify. Mr. Prickett asked if it still has to go to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Vaz replied correct, for most types of intersections. That money is in there to do a lot of these signs. Mr. Prickett stated as a result of that change in the law, are the engineers are now going to be approving, certifying the intersections and are they going to take the data from the Police Department and then certify using that data. Mr. Vaz answered yes, and they asked ARH to take a look at the new statute about one month ago to give us their input on it and how they can do that. Previously they weren't really interested in being involved in doing the survey because their feeling was that the Police Department could do it and then the state would just sign off on it. Now they're being asked to step in as the approving authority so they kind of have to make an internal decision whether they as an engineering firm want to get in the business of certifying surveys performed by somebody else. We are just waiting to hear back. Mr. Prickett expressed concern and asked if this is going to happen more quickly now with the new process getting these stop signs installed and asked Mr. Vaz if he thought they would get installed by the end of the year. Mr. Vaz replied that all of the ones that we budgeted should be. Mr. Prickett added and that are in the ordinance. Mr. Vaz answered not all the ones in the ordinance. Mr. Prickett informed those are his questions for page 43. Mr. Inge and Mr. Cartier did not have any questions.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 290 as corrected. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT #0310

Mr. Prickett asked if there are any changes to this from Administration. Mayor Patriarca replied yes, he is looking for the line item and there will be a request on the other expenses not salaries. Mr. Prickett noted there is a vacant position at \$21,164. Mr. Vaz informed that was the gate position we were talking about earlier. Mr. Prickett commented on temporary employees; if he remembered correctly that was with Buildings and Grounds last year and since we don't have temporary employees this year that are not reflected as a line. Mr. Inge and Mr. Cartier did not have any questions. Mrs. Stinney informed Council is now on page 47 of 91 and there are no questions from Council. Council is now on page 48 of 91, Buildings and Grounds, Department 310. Mayor Patriarca informed there is a request from DPW to increase line item 02401 by \$5,000 for a project that we are trying to accomplish in Country Lakes. We have always experienced a problem in the town with four wheel drive vehicles, quads and motorcycles and what we're looking to do is put a four foot chain link fence down along Wisahicken Trail in Country Lakes in the easement to prevent vehicles from going in to the woods at that point from the residential area in the hopes to curb the activity in the roadway which leads to the woods and they are driving through the development to get in to

the woods and then use that as an access in to a wooded area that they ride the bikes. The residents have been complaining and we've looked at other options. The Police Department has increased patrols out there working on enforcement ends. We're looking to just end the problem with preventing the access. The Mayor continued that they looked at guardrail which is much more expensive and we thought by putting a four foot chain link fence up down that roadway and we would certainly provide access points if emergency personnel had to get in there whether it be with a gate or an opening that would be chained off preventing individuals and it would probably be a gate that we could lock. We have to address the issue of the dirt bikes and the quads in the neighborhood and this is what we found. It's in many neighborhoods but this neighborhood is one that we are continually getting complaints on and we want to try something that we think will be effective. Mr. Cartier asked where precisely this is. Mayor Patriarca informed it would be from Split Rock on Wisahicken at dam number 2 out to Tecumseh. That stretch of Wisahicken that is open to the woods coming from Split Rock it will be on the right hand side; it's kind of the back end of the D.R. Horton project. Mr. Cartier stated he knows where the Mayor is talking about now and added that it seems like an unsightly answer to a problem. Mr. Cartier understands there is a problem out there but putting a chain link fence up against a forest is unsightly and it doesn't make sense to him. Mayor Patriarca expressed he is not saying it is the most attractive method and again they looked at guardrail which can be done in wood or metal but that is probably three times the expense; the cost of doing it. This was the more inexpensive way of addressing it. Mr. Inge did not have any comments. Mrs. Stinney informed Council is on page 48 of 91; line item 2-02401, requesting \$5,000 for the fence due to complaints for Country Lakes. Mr. Prickett questioned line item 02902. Mrs. Stinney asked for comments on line item 2-02401. She would like to stay on this item and would like the comments because Council will need four votes to increase this amount. Mr. Prickett informed he did not have any comments on line item 2-02401. Mrs. Stinney referred to line item 02902, alarm service. Mr. Prickett commented that \$15,000 was budgeted last year but it was an \$18,883 bill and we are budgeting close to that this year. The request has been made by the Mayor for \$18,500 and asked what is going on with the alarms and that is a lot of money for alarm services. Mr. Prickett asked if that is repair or do we arm another building. Mayor Patriarca informed that we alarm several buildings in the Township. Mr. Prickett remarked that in 2007 it was \$14,000, in 2008 we budgeted \$15,000 but we expended \$18,000 almost \$19,000 and he was curious why there was an approximately increase of \$4,000. Mr. Prickett stated in the supplemental book it talks about repair of alarm services. Mayor Patriarca conveyed that is a small portion of the contingency, the annual testing is a \$13,000 portion of that. Mr. Prickett confirmed that \$13,000 is for testing of the alarm system. The Mayor explained that the company that we were using for the service no longer does it; a local company so we had to go with a contracted company and quite frankly we didn't the deals that we got from the local guy. Mr. Prickett asked the Mayor how much he said the monitoring was and if he gave a ballpark amount. Mayor Patriarca informed Mrs. Eden will provide that explanation as she seems to have this one. Mr. Prickett commented she always does. Mrs. Eden explained that for each one of our buildings there are two fees. We have a yearly cost for fire and a yearly cost for burglar. Mr. Prickett stated the certification of the systems is around \$13,000 so the rest would be.....Mr. Vaz apologized as he mis-spoke because there was a reverse charge that he didn't see. Mr. Prickett thanked Mrs. Eden for clarifying there were two services there and he would imagine it's the fire that certified. Mrs. Eden informed those services also have to be tested monthly.

Mayor Patriarca added just the fire though. Mr. Vaz commented it looks like the testing alone is close to \$7,000 and he had doubled it but then he saw that there was a reversal for one of them. The testing alone is about \$7,000 and the rest of the 2008 charges look like they were service work. Mr. Prickett asked along with monitoring. Mr. Vaz answered yes, central station monitoring. Mr. Prickett commented that is a lot of money in service work. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Inge if he had any questions. Mr. Prickett advised he has some more questions on this page. Mr. Prickett referenced Lake Management, line item 02911, last year we budgeted \$13,000, expended approximately \$7,200 and now we are requesting \$13,000 again. Mr. Prickett asked if there are plans to treat Mirror Lake or one of the lakes and if that is what this is being requested for. Mayor Patriarca explained there have been no plans at this point to treat it with any type of chemicals of any type but that doesn't mean that we couldn't if need be draw from this line if we had to do that. Mr. Prickett asked what was the \$7,200 used last year and asked if that was transferred. Mr. Vaz replied that the charges he is looking at are for geese chasers for the geese clearing and there was a charge for rip wrap stone off Lakeshore. The Mayor informed there was some repair work done off of South Lakeshore Drive where the lake was eating away at the embankment and we repaired that by putting six inch rip wrap along the embankment to keep the lake from working it's way in to our roadway. Mr. Prickett thought he saw the geese chasers under Recreation but we can double check that when we get there. Mr. Prickett continued that makes sense for the rip wrap and.....Mayor Patriarca interjected that we still have hope on creating this lake management commission and corrected himself to lake management advisory board to work on our lakes. He has found some individuals that come to the meetings and are quite vocal at times and are interested in our lakes who are interested in being involved in that. Mayor Patriarca is waiting and has spoken to the state about three weeks ago and is searching for some information bylaws and so forth of other lake management advisory boards to help us out in creating what we would like to have here in the Township so we are still hopeful. Mr. Prickett asked if there have been any complaints about any aquatic plants growing in Mirror Lake or any of the other lakes. The Mayor responded no, actually last year we did pretty good. We did a lake lowering in the winter and it seemed to have helped quite a bit and this year we didn't make it in time for the permit and weren't able to do so but when he did call the state to try and plead our case to try and get it reduced or to be able to lower the lake, he was informed that they recommend we do it every other year to get the better effect from it and not kill too much of the other turtles and so forth that may be affected. They wouldn't give us the permit but again they did extend the offer of helping us to get information to try and formulate our lake management commission, our advisory board and get that under way. Mr. Prickett asked if that means we could take, that we have a permit for \$1,000 for the lakes from the last section and can we remove that \$1,000 from there. Mayor Patriarca advised no, we put in an application for lowering the lake this fall for this year in 2009 and we are intending to lower it again in 2009. We didn't do it in 2008 so we want to do it in 2009. Mr. Prickett commented he is good on this page. Mr. Inge and Mr. Cartier did not have any questions. Mrs. Stinney advised Council is on page 49 of 91. Mr. Prickett had a question on line item 20400, Miscellaneous and there it's \$60,000 and there is no explanation in the supplemental book. Mr. Vaz answered it is under miscellaneous and it's on top of glasses. It's not correctly spaced. It's the gypsy moth spraying program. Mr. Prickett noted the gypsy moth is underneath there and added that we do that every year and would think that it would have its own line but he guesses not. The Mayor noted that we don't do it every year. Mr. Prickett agreed and stated he misspoke; every other year but last

year. Mr. Vaz stated it had a line at some point. Mr. Prickett stated he has questions about tools, where \$4,500 was expended last year for line item 05000 and asked if these were power tools. Mayor Patriarca stated it could be power tools if that's what they are buying at that time but it could also be a hammer if they needed a hammer; if they needed a saw, screwdriver. Mr. Prickett stated his last question on this page has to do with the computer and asked if that is a computer or software. He sees in the supplemental book it says two computers and software but that doesn't really clearly tell him what that line is all about and that is line 5900. Mr. Vaz explained the \$1,500 that is in there now is the contingency that they try to put in each department. He suspects the description Mr. Prickett is seeing where they put two computers; it looks like they forgot to delete that. We had these sheets from them when they made their request to the Mayor and it doesn't look like they took that out. If there is a need for one of the two computers they are requesting, that would be the money that is put in for the contingency every year. Mr. Prickett stated so nothing is planned and this is on a contingent basis. The Mayor commented the software reflects just a portion of the software that we maintain, the licensing for the pub works and we charge a portion to each department and then public works and this would reflect that portion. Mr. Prickett asked if that is a yearly license fee for that. Mayor Patriarca answered yes and added that it also gets you the free updates or any maintenance that they do to it automatically comes to the system. Mr. Prickett asked how much that is a year. Mayor Patriarca replied it is \$415.00 per department and it is split up in three departments. Mr. Vaz informed this line was charged \$415.00 for it. Mr. Prickett stated it is around \$1,200 for that service. Mr. Prickett stated to the Mayor that he attests that it's a good service and he knows he asked the Mayor about this before. Mayor Patriarca replied when he asks them about it they claim that it is working fine for them. He has discussed sitting down with them and actually having them bring it up and he has it on his system and he goes in sometimes and it looks greek to him and he doesn't fully understand it but he wants them to sit down and bring it up on the screen and run a test through it so he can ask them a question and have them bring it up and they have discussed that recently to have it done. Mr. Prickett noted it was suppose to be a good management tool and that's why he is asking and that is what he is curious about and that's how the Mayor sold it to Council also. Mr. Vaz stated for example they just received a report on last week's storm and that software was used by the supervisor to prepare the report for Administration. It told how many tons of salt, what the cost was, how many man hours, the cost of that, the overtime and all of the details he was able to pull from the pub works program. Mr. Prickett commented that is terrific and asked if he can do the same for the winter parade and the water carnival. Mr. Vaz replied yes. Mayor Patriarca commented that if there is ever a light schedule on the Council meetings, maybe we could set up with the programs purchased through the different departments; perhaps they could have a presentation. The Mayor informed he would not be against maybe having them come in and do a short presentation of a software so that not only Council but Administration and the public can be assured that when we buy these programs that we're investing in things that are helping the town be more efficient and we can have them run through a scenario. Mr. Prickett agreed and indicated that would be super and when Council had the presentation with the rec program registering on line that opened up a lot of ideas not only to be used within Pemberton Township within the municipal complex but the civic organizations in the town as well as the schools. The Mayor stated that prior to that there was opposition or potential opposition with lack of knowledge with that program but once it was demonstrated everyone felt comfortable that it was going to benefit the town and the residents in the

program. The Mayor added that we could probably work something like that out. Get the different departments that have programs like this do demos. Mr. Prickett commented that he would also be interested in the computer program on land management in our town, the maps with ARH. Mayor Patriarca noted GIS and that was a topic of his today. Mr. Vaz received an earful from him today about that program and he understands where the program lies and we are getting close to that. It's in the server and we need to get that on line and up and running completely to be able to bring the GIS program in to the server so we can start accessing it and we are accessing an old version right now through a web base that they maintain on their end that we can connect to. They are all ready to go and are chomping at the bit to get it in our system. We just don't have our server ready to accept it. Mr. Prickett indicated it was like a \$40,000 system if he remembers correctly and asked if it hasn't been completely utilized up until now. Mayor Patriarca informs that we utilize it and when we need information from them that we can't get through the web base, we'll ask them to bring it up and they'll print us out what we need and get us the information. It's just that it's not readily available as we had anticipated from the start because of the hardware situation we have with the server now. Mrs. Stinney asked the Mayor on the Recreation supplies, item two. Mr. Prickett asked Mrs. Stinney to let him finish. Mr. Prickett asked how long the fee paid a couple of years ago will cover the GIS system. Mr. Vaz answered it was project based and the project is not complete yet. They have been paid as they go based on the work completed. The end result is supposed to be a system that is fully assessable through the web by the public. They are stuck because we are trying to get the new server up and running and once that is done we'll have the server capacity for the GIS system to be able to do that. Right now, the current server doesn't have the ability. Mr. Prickett thanked the Mayor and Mr. Vaz. Mrs. Stinney asked the Mayor regarding the Recreation supplies for 2007 and 2008, line item 2-0660 if there was any particular area where we are constantly replacing those items. Mayor Patriarca commented that we maintain the parks for replacing the swings and things such as that.....Mrs. Stinney asked if there are any specific areas that are in constant need every year. The Mayor answered Mirror Lake Beach. Mr. Vaz explained the charges he is showing for 2008 based on the expenditures is not showing up as the same number as the \$11,438 and it's showing a transfer of \$10,000 out of the line and he'll have Mrs. Eden check in to that. Mr. Vaz reiterated that Mrs. Eden will check and it looks like out of that \$11,438, \$10,000 was a transfer out of that line somewhere else and she is looking for the somewhere else. His expenditure sheets that Mrs. Eden had provided him are showing a \$1,400 expenditure for 2008 so the \$10,000 plus the \$1,400 adds up to the amount in the line. Mrs. Eden will try to find what line it went to. Mr. Prickett commented that they just talked about geese chasers with lake management. Mr. Vaz confirmed. Mr. Prickett conveyed that he just checked in the Recreation Budget breakdown in the supplement book and he hasn't been able to find it on the line yet and maybe it's not there and maybe Administration can help, but there is an item in the Recreation budget 0370 that states Geese Chasers. Mr. Prickett added it is in the supplement book, 024.01 and is not sure what that stands for. Mr. Prickett asked Administration off the top of their head, why it is listed twice and added that we can talk about it once we get to recreation again but maybe this might resolve it. Mr. Vaz advised when he pointed out geese chasers under lake management that was where money for geese chasers was expended in 2008. His recollection was in 2008 we did not plan to use geese chasers and then the problem with the geese became so bad especially around the time of the water carnival or when the beaches were open for swimming. When we went back to geese chasers, we needed a place to charge it because we had not put it back in to

the 2008 budget so a portion of it wound up being charged to the lake management line item. Mr. Prickett stated that's been a discussion, they didn't put it in the budget last year or the year before, it was talked about and then Administration decided it was working out okay and they are now back in the budget. Mr. Vaz remarked that it is always debatable how well it works. The problem is there is not really much else out there in the field of geese chasing. Right now the dogs seem to be the best thing although they are testing new technology. Mr. Prickett informed he asked because there has been that question over the last couple of years about the effectiveness and asked if they are doing the service exactly the same way as they have in the past and noted Mr. Vaz mentioning new technology. Mr. Vaz explained the new technology he was talking about is something that actually hit the news when the plane landed on the Hudson because it had run in to a flock of geese. Right after that news story hit, they started talking about geese and bird management at airports. One piece of technology is remote controlled fake hawks because hawks are a natural predator of geese so they have these companies sending people out to the airports with remote controlled hawks to scare away geese and are trying all kinds of different technologies. Mr. Prickett commented that kind of cleared it up for him as long as there isn't a line item in Recreation and we're not going to be billed twice for geese chasers.

Mrs. Stinney convened the meeting for a short break at approximately 7:56 pm before opening the meeting to the public. Mr. Cartier asked if Council is done with Department 310. Mrs. Stinney answered Council is not done with Department 310 and will come back to it. Mrs. Stinney reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:05 pm.

Council President Stinney opened the meeting to the public. Those wishing to comment were:

Pat Conners: 1. Been in Pemberton Township for a couple of decades. First time he has been in a forum like this and watching how the budget progresses. Not sure where the discourse, arguments and difference of opinions come in this process and where that's done, whether before or after. Mr. Conners expressed his one concern is about taxes. Line item by line item is Council's job, it is tedious and he thanked them all for doing it but his concern is the bottom line and the taxes. The answer cannot be like he read in the Community News and noted _____ was quoted as saying we just need to raise taxes and it's the only answer. Mr. Conners expressed it is not the only answer. The answer is management and efficient management and sometimes efficient management means saying no to things like \$5,000 fences to 4-5% cost of living raises every year, to longevity pay, to health benefits that you don't pay any co-pays or things like that. Raising taxes is not the answer. There is enough money in the Township and in the budget at the current levels to where we all should be able to survive. Every time you raise taxes, you are hurting somebody out there. Personally, the taxes are never going to get too high for him. He is well off but not everybody is. Mr. Conners has four children that went to school in Pemberton Township and only one of them lives here because of the cost of living in this Township and taxes are a large part of it. That impacts the housing prices and rent prices and things like that. The only reason the one person lives here is because they are subsidized. Not by the county or state but are subsidized by him and his wife in another house that they own. Raising taxes; you have to draw the line somewhere. You should be thinking of ways to cut taxes; we are the highest tax population in this country. Raising taxes is not going to fix anything. It may make some people happy for the short run but sooner or later, people like you here and across the country are going

to have to make hard decisions and say no. Yes, it would be real nice, but no, the money is not there. You can't keep going back to the well; the well is dry. People are leaving, people are moving in together. Most people in this Township know multiple families live together just to survive. Those little bit of taxes, five cents here, ten cents there, one or two hundred dollars a year make a big difference in the long run especially when it comes year after year and it's compounded. After five, six or seven years, your taxes are doubled. Just because of the five cents here or ten cents there. Mr. Conners reiterated raising taxes is not the solution. If you have to cut personnel, you cut personnel. In his opinion, there is not a department in the Township that he is familiar with, the larger department anyway like the Police and Public Works that don't have room in their personnel to cut back. What the numbers are, he doesn't know but it should be up to the departments and Council to come to that answer. If you can't deal with the union contracts and get those costs manageable, the only solution to that personnel problem is to cut personnel; you can do that. You may have to follow the union rules and the union agreements that have been agreed to which he disagreed with for a long period of time, but Council agreed to them and legally are bound by them. There are a couple of choices, go back to the union, ask for concessions, renegotiate the contracts and if the answer is no, this is how many personnel have to go and these are the services that will be affected and impacted by that. That's what you have to live with and everybody here has a budget at home and you can't keep saying I want more money next year because I want to do this or that. It doesn't happen that way and it shouldn't happen that way here. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Conners for his comments.

Tom Ryder: 1. The reason he is here tonight is about the 19 employees and the raising of the taxes 9.8%. We know standing here right now, if this Township was assessed at the true market values of the houses, you would have less money coming in than more money coming in and you would have to work with them. Mr. Ryder commented that he has seen the shuffling of feet on the right hand side, where is this \$10,000, this \$1,000 and he stated that is his tax payer money and Administration should have the honest answers sitting before the board to give them the exact quote of where that money is and not moving between chairs trying to decide did we move it here or there. Mr. Ryder works for the government and understands how the government budget works. Sometimes you have to borrow from Peter to pay Paul. But sometimes, you over pay Paul. As far as he is concerned, he hates to see anybody lose their job at this time, but the facts are the facts. You can call it recession, you can call it depression or whatever you want to call it but we are in it. Mr. Ryder lives on a fixed income. He is raising two grandchildren, helping his mother and father-in-law and his mother who is getting an operation and is 85 years old and gets less money than he does and she has to live off of that. We are locked in an economy in this Township that is controlled by _____ for the elderly people. We need to get out of that trend of accommodating them and let the people come in here with business that can offer this Township something. We are not a friendly Township when it comes to inviting outsiders in with industry. We seem to avoid it and do everything in our power to drive people out of Browns Mills instead of bringing them in with business that can help subsidize the tax burdens. Personally, he doesn't think it's a good idea to keep the 19 employees on. He hates to see them lose their job but it is what it is. If we can only afford what we have, then so be it. He watches the Township trucks ride around this Township, Public Works, up and down his street. He still has leaves in bags on his street, he still has holes on his streets and for two months it has not been fixed. Mr. Ryder noted the original problem started when the gas company came in years ago and put a gas line down and never repaired the road right and the Township never forced them to repair it right. Mr. Ryder

informed he has lived here since 1963 and he has seen this Township grow. If you want to make money, go out and get these houses and properties that look like crap out there. Ride on Junction Road, Upper Ridge Road and any road in the Township and you'll see good looking houses and right next to them a depression. If you want to raise revenue, there is a place to start. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Ryder for his comments. **Michael Tamn: 1.** Has been attending budget meetings for over 45 years. Started within four months of moving in to the Township. He used to go to meetings and sit in the back of the room and listen. The Township Committee at that time after about four months, one of them came up to him and asked him what he is trying to do. Mr. Tamn stated he wasn't saying anything; he was just listening. Some things have not changed. What you have done in government and he has seen this Administration do it the last few years again, you just add on and state that this happened last year and decreased it a few buck and then increase it by 30% and this is what is taking place. Nobody is looking outside of the box because it takes guts. He hasn't seen too much of it in the budget process, which is guts. If you want to straighten out things on the taxes, you could do it. There are some towns in the state that are doing it and those people have guts and are doing it. What they are doing is they are looking out for the people that you don't hear or see and there are many of them in this Township that you don't hear or see and Council is not representing them, they are only representing a few people right now, what they can see. What they can't see doesn't matter. There are many people on set incomes in this Township and Council hasn't scratched anything to help them out yet. They are the overwhelming majority and the overwhelming majority of the voters too. There are retired people in this town, people over 55 and people over 65 and when adding them up, there are thousands and they are not happy. This ten cent raise on it could cost them maybe \$75, \$100 or maybe \$175 depending on the value of their homes. It doesn't sound like much to some of Council but it is a hell of a lot of money on a set income especially when your set income hasn't gone up the percentage that the cost of living has gone up. Those are the basics, fuel, utilities, and medications, healthcare and of course everybody in this room gets it free more or less and it doesn't make a difference to them. The thing about it is Council better get some guts and do something. Don't just say, we'll cut a few bucks here and we're doing this and that. Mr. Tamn remarked he just scrambled through the budget in the last hour to hour and a half, page by page and he sees a whole scenario where things could be revised as what they are doing. They could be revised in some departments, Public Works, Road Departments could have big revisions in those departments. Get a professional _____ that has been running in private industry and knows how they operate in private industry. Find out that you can't operate the same way in private industry like you operate here because you would lose money and would be out of business within a year if tried operating it that way. That is the way you are operating it and it's absolutely ridiculous. Productivity, expenses and purchases, you couldn't do it. You wouldn't be eating and feeding your family if you tried to run a business like that but still you are doing it here. You haven't stopped; people complain about it. People complain about it; people point it out to you and you're still filing through the budget and saying you'll cut pencils out here and there and it doesn't amount to a hill of beans on it. Find out where the real bucks are. A couple of them mentioned where the real problems are. In the budget tonight, he noticed \$425,000 for awards and asked what awards. Mr. Cartier asked Mr. Tamn what he was talking about and what department. Mr. Tamn answered it is on the end and page 76. Mr. Vaz asked Mr. Tamn if it is judgments. Mr. Tamn replied it is judgment awards and its a half a million bucks and its five cents on our taxes. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Tamn to inform where he is on the budget. Mayor

Patriarca replied those are anticipated settlements that we are expecting and know we are going to have to pay for different law suits that are up and coming and some have already been settled. Mr. Tamn asked if that is the Township's share. The Mayor answered yes. Mr. Tamn commented that probably some of them are sheer stupidity that we're paying but that's five cents of tax money. Mr. Cartier stated to Mr. Tamn that he knows as well as anybody that most lawsuits are sheer stupidity and it's just a cash cow. People out looking for a payday. Mr. Tamn replied that he has known from experience in the Township that some of them could have been avoided. Mr. Cartier agreed. Mr. Tamn continued that not all of them but some could have been avoided had action been taken quick enough by the people in the Township. That has been previously and today and it shouldn't be. Council is elected and is responsible to the people. The Mayor and Business Administrator are responsible to the people and it should not be. Department Heads are. Mr. Tamn asked Council if they know what is unfair and stated they gave up to 12% increase in pay raises to supervision. Mr. Tamn understands the supervisors that weren't in that collective bargaining have had their salaries frozen. Mr. Tamn asked Council why they would do something like that; freeze some supervisors and others go through the roof with. Mr. Tamn asked Mrs. Stinney if she could explain it. Mrs. Stinney deferred to Mr. Vaz. Mr. Vaz advised that wage freezes were part of the pre-lay off action. One of the steps that we had to take when we put the lay off plan together. Just so everybody is clear, the budget that has been presented to Council includes cost of living increase for all of the non-contractual employees but they have not been re-implemented. When we did the wage freeze at the time, the wage freeze is in effect until we really know where we're going. The Governor gave his budget message yesterday and it wasn't really a positive one for local government and we're all still waiting for things to happen at the state. The legislature is going to be taking actions on some laws but as it stands now there is the wage freeze for non-contractual but the budget as presented includes cost of living increases for those non-contractual. Mr. Tamn then asked if that's the case, why didn't you do it with the other employees that were given up to 12% and why couldn't they get the cost of living like the people on pensions and social security. Mr. Tamn asked Council to answer that. Mrs. Stinney replied it is something that they negotiated with and that's where it is. Mr. Tamn stated Council approved the contract. Mrs. Stinney replied, yes we did. Mr. Tamn commented that is the bottom line. Mrs. Stinney stated all four of us did, yes we did. Mr. Tamn conveyed the buck falls with Council and they approved it and asked why Council approved it. Mrs. Stinney replied that Council agreed and supported the contract as it was presented to Council, all four of them did. Mr. Inge stated he did not agree to that. Mrs. Stinney stated she said four, not five. Mr. Inge commented there are only four of us. Mrs. Stinney commented for the record, it was herself, Mr. Prickett, Mrs. Scull in her absence and Mr. Cartier; it was four Council members that did that. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Tamn for his question on the budget. Mr. Tamn replied this is what is contributing to it; it just snowballs and snowballs and continues; it doesn't stop. Mr. Tamn expressed he looked through the Recreation budget, \$640,000 more or less. Mrs. Stinney commented that Council has not gotten there yet. Mr. Tamn continued there are some other expenses that are not in that; that are paid in other parts of the budget. Mr. Tamn remarked that some families are having a hard time taking care of their children in this town; feeding, clothing and keeping a roof over their heads. Mr. Tamn asked Council how they are going to pay to get in to a recreation program. Mrs. Stinney reiterated that Council hasn't gotten to that department yet. Mr. Tamn replied that she will probably skip off \$10,000 if we're lucky out of it; go a couple of percent off. Mrs. Stinney stated that is his opinion. Mr. Tamn noted that is his opinion and

that's his opinion for the past couple of years; Council has been upping it instead of cutting it. Mr. Tamn conveyed that practicality.....Mrs. Stinney interjected that we as a Council have not collectively sat down and done that department. While she appreciates his comments, Council is going to work with this budget collectively together as he sees here this evening. Mr. Tamn remarked that he has witnessed for the last hour and a half collectively together.....Mrs. Stinney interjected and asked Mr. Tamn how collectively Council is working together. Mr. Tamn continued that he has just seen Mr. Prickett asking questions only about it. Mrs. Stinney stated maybe he's the only one that has questions and maybe the others understand and she doesn't know and she doesn't understand what Mr. Tamn means with questions and reiterated that maybe the rest of the Council understands and she can't answer for them and maybe they would like to answer why they don't have questions and she doesn't know and can only speak for herself. Mr. Tamn commented that since Mrs. Stinney had silence, he would imagine she agreed with everything that is going on. Mrs. Stinney stated she asks the questions that she feels pertains to answers for her and asked Mr. Tamn what is it that he wants her to ask for him. Mr. Tamn stated to Mrs. Stinney that she is the President of Council and should take the leadership to show.....Mrs. Stinney interjected and stated the President of the Council it doesn't say leadership in her book. The President of Council sets the pace of how our meetings are going. We are all leadership here and we all represent the people of this Township. We are all leaders of the people, every last one. Mr. Tamn asked Mrs. Stinney why she can't freeze the budget and keep it at the same level as last year.....Mrs. Stinney interjected that she appreciates his comments. Mr. Tamn continued that he knows it sounds crazy but it can be done. In 1980 there was a similar situation and he got on the committee in 1980 and in 78, and 79 it was a disaster in the Finance Department. When he got on, they couldn't reconcile a darn thing and didn't know how much money the Township owed or what they had. They had to freeze everything on spending and it was done for one year. Mrs. Stinney commented that she can't speak for the people of 1980. Mr. Tamn noted Council is here today and represent the people, all six of Council and it is their responsibility to start representing every one of them that are out there, all 31,000. That's what is important and the three or four thousand that are on set incomes in this Township, then the unemployment rate in the Township that is 8.6 by now that Council does not see. Take 8.6 of the unemployment rate of the eligible employees in this Township and that's quite a few families that might be out of a house and home soon. Mrs. Stinney commented that she does understand. Mr. Tamn suggested instead of going through it like this here, send the Business Administrator and Mayor back to come up with a budget that has a zero increase. It could be done if you want it to; all it takes is guts and representing the people like you should. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Tamn for his comments. **Lillian Luker: 1.** Been a resident in this Township for 53 years. Sent her children to school in this Township. She is now 71 years old, on social security and also works to pay for her taxes and utilities. Mrs. Luker's main concern is the 19 people that are suppose to get laid off. When Administration gave the 12 supervisor's their increases and their retroactive pay, we were already in a crunch and were already there, but it still happened. Mrs. Luker advised she is not here to criticize but she is here for the residents in this Township and everyone else that need our help but we do need help and something does have to be done. She doesn't know how much longer she is going to be able to work but she goes to work everyday. Just so she can get those taxes paid. Mrs. Luker commends Administration and is sure they are doing what they think is necessary but she still doesn't approve of all of those supervisors getting a pay and risking lay offs at the same time. Mrs. Luker reiterated that she

does not approve of that. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mrs. Luker. **Edna Inge:** Agrees with Mr. Edward, Mr. Ryder, Mr. Tamn and Mrs. Luker. We are in an economic crunch and it's not going away. It is what it is and it certainly isn't anyone's fault in this room. Again, when we had this meeting on the pay raises, there were 19 people that were supposed to get laid off. The question was asked are our taxes going up. No one knew at that time. There were also 12 supervisors getting raises. Mrs. Inge remarked that she heard some gentlemen saying an economic squeeze and maybe some of these people should get paid off. Mrs. Inge flipped the coin and think maybe these supervisors shouldn't get these raises and maybe that should be frozen. It all plays out where everybody gets what they want except the people that elected the people in this Township. Whether it is Council or the Mayor. We put these people in office and we need to get the results. Is it a crunch; it's a crunch all over. Not just in Pemberton Township. Again our voices are not being heard. Things are being done the way of business as usual. That is all that she can say on that subject as far as these pay raises go and our taxes going up. She doesn't really feel that it's going to change but she intends to speak her peace about it. Noted that Mr. Tamn spoke about an article on page 75 or something that dealt with lawsuits. It is really out of order that Mr. Cartier had to sit up here as a Council person and use cash cows and free ride. It is not necessary and it is not something that we as tax payers because maybe there is someone sitting back there that might have put a law suit in. Again, that is his opinion but she didn't think that should be said. Mrs. Inge noted if the Burlington County Times was here and heard it, she is sure we would get a nice write up in the paper that Mrs. Stinney certainly would not like. Mrs. Stinney stated that she doesn't like any of their articles. Mrs. Inge stated she heard Mrs. Stinney comment before. Mrs. Stinney continued that they are just so double tongued. Mrs. Inge stated Mrs. Stinney likes some of them if they're good and for a Council member to say something like that is definitely not.....Mrs. Stinney interjected that they are just so double tongued. Mrs. Inge commented that she thinks that should be addressed. **Keith Skulimoski: 1.** Urged Council members when going through the budget to please think of the residents as everyone else is saying about the tax increase. He is in the military and he and his wife just had their second child. They were hurting beforehand. Mr. Skulimoski is from this Township; he grew up here, he loves this Township and has a lot of pride in it. He knows everybody wants everything they can do to make this Township better. This room is absolutely gorgeous; he loves this room. He wishes we could do this through the whole municipal building but we just don't have the money. Asked if this is the third year in a row that we are going to be raising taxes or something like that. Mr. Skulimoski stated that he can't afford more taxes. His wife had to work a week before she gave birth for them to pay their bills. He is looking at getting a second job to pay for their bills. If that doesn't work, he is going to have to sell his house, take a loss on that and move on base. He is sure there are a lot of other residents that are going to have to do the same where they are going to have to cut ties and say you know what, we're going to lose \$50,000 on this house but we just can't afford it anymore. We can't; we have to feed our families. Mr. Skulimoski urged Council to think about that as they go through the budget. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Skulimoski. Mr. Vaz informed that in listening to the questions of the public, he has numbers on a different sheet which are the sheets that get used to come up with the tax levy cap and the expenditure cap, the two caps that we have to live by under state law. Mr. Vaz informed he might be able to put some of this in to perspective. Also to let everyone know, the Mayor has invited and we don't have the details yet so that he can discuss it with you, he was going to ask the Auditor to come to describe a little how the state laws in the last couple of years have changed the municipal

budgeting process and how the focus is different. In light of the questions that are asked, Mr. Vaz would like to throw the numbers out and he thinks that what he is hearing is that a 9.8 cent tax increase relates directly to an untrue and not factual increase in the appropriations in the budget. That's not how to look at these numbers anymore. The 9.8 cents does not relate to what we are spending in the budget. The expenditure side of the budget, the total budget is about \$24 million dollars. Expenditures compared with last year only went up \$178,000. Why he is saying it is because if you do the math, 9.8 cents times what a penny equals on the tax rate, it is \$861,000. The budget did not go up \$861,000 and he just wants everybody to understand that. The budget, the appropriation side only went up \$178,000. \$168,000 of that is salaries and wages so the non-salary portion of the budget, the operating budget went up approximately \$10,000 of the total increase. Mr. Vaz continued that what is happening as a result of this tax levy cap statute and why you are reading it in the newspaper about layoffs and how towns are trying to figure out how to deal with this new way of thinking is, our problems are not a spending problem. Mr. Vaz conveyed that he will agree with Mr. Tamn that there are certainly ways in any budget to cut and become more efficient, but looking at the totality of this budget, a \$24 million dollar budget, our problem is the same as it is in the other towns that are laying people off. It's a revenue problem. The 9.8 cents comes because of our inability like most towns to have a non-tax source to fund the budget. So even though the budget is only going up \$178,000, we need the 9.8 cents at this point in time to fund the whole budget. There is no revenue out there other than the tax part of it and that's the whole struggle that you are reading about in the newspapers and hear on the news these days. He just wanted to make the point that 9.8 cents equals \$860,000 but that's not how much the budget is going up. It's only going up \$178,000 and almost all of that are salaries due to the contractual pay increases. The other minor point he wanted to note was that when we are up here looking occasionally for information, it is because it is a \$24 million dollar budget. They want to give Council the best information that we have so that if we are looking to find why there is a \$10,000 expenditure with a note that it was transferred is going to take them a few minutes to get to. They can't be expected to have fifteen months worth of expenditures burned in to their head because that is thousands of purchase orders and almost a thousand line items. If they look like they're shuffling their feet, it's simply because they want Council to have accurate information so that they have that when they are making their decisions. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Vaz. Mrs. Stinney wanted to coat tail what Mr. Vaz stated and informed that they have sat down and asked the auditor to come in this Saturday to give a more overview of the budget. They do want the residents to have accurate and good information. This is what she believes every Council member sitting up there would want the residents to have. She doesn't have a problem with a newspaper or a webpage or whatever the source may be to get information out. She just likes accurate information and that is the only problem she has. Mrs. Stinney conveyed she just wants the information accurate so that the residents can get good information and thoroughly digest it and ask those questions and that's the only thing that she is sure each one of Council would like to see that the public gets. She doesn't have a problem with that and is going to make sure the Auditor is here on Saturday morning. Mrs. Stinney remarked that she hasn't spoke with the Mayor about it but if it's okay, we can get the auditor to give us an overall right at the beginning so that the public can come forward and have the questions asked or their answers given for their questions. The Mayor informed that is their intention if it is okay with Council to have the Auditor speak first and then if Council wishes to open it to the public for questions or Council questions. Mrs. Stinney noted that she is

sure the Council is aware because Mrs. Young sent an email to each Council member in regards to the new deadline because of the state budget and is sure that mostly everyone saw that or read it in the newspapers. Today, we do have that deadline from March 17th to the 31st. Mrs. Stinney commented that she is sure that each Council member if they are not answering the questions that they are asking for research. She heard on one of the Council members when Mrs. Eden stated there were hundreds of pages that the question Mr. Prickett asked and wanted to see some type of document and we do have information that we are going to see through and ask those questions. Do we all ask them at public meetings; she has asked hers throughout the week since she received the book. Mrs. Stinney doesn't have to specifically wait for a Council meeting to ask her questions. She likes productivity and likes to have that information just in case she hears something from the public that doesn't match what she has and then she can have another chance and opportunity to do some research on that. Mrs. Stinney wanted to just say that to the public and maybe from here tonight maybe the newspapers will get the time and information about our meeting on Saturday and maybe can entice a few more people. Our newspapers are supposed to be our friends and she has always said that for years and years and years. Sometimes people don't have the affordability to get out to public meetings and get this information. Years ago when she served on the school board, they asked what about the seniors that don't like to drive out at nights and those sorts of things and can be televise the meetings and that sort of things. That only brings in showcases and all people don't get that information. Mr. Prickett noted that Mrs. Stinney mentioned when the budget deadline was and initially it was the 17th and asked if it's true that it has been extended to the 31st and if that was in the paper today. Mr. Cartier commented it was reported by the League. Mrs. Stinney commented that she doesn't trust that email. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Cartier if it was reported by the League. Mr. Cartier confirmed that is what is being reported by the League. Mrs. Stinney agreed and added that she didn't bring that document that was copied over to all of Council. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Vaz if he had the deadline date. Mr. Vaz confirmed it is March 31st. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Vaz if he had that copy. Mr. Vaz replied he didn't get the local finance notice yet and the Finance Board is meeting either today or tomorrow and obviously the League through their staff has the inside scoop with the.....Mrs. Stinney interjected that she didn't bring the email and just assumed Mr. Prickett read it. Mr. Prickett replied he didn't. Mrs. Stinney continued with public comments. **Mr. Ryder: 1.** Stated there was a bug infestation he thinks in November at Helen Forte Middle School and they hired a contractor to take care of the bug problem. He asked if anyone knew what they paid for the contractor to come in. Mrs. Stinney answered she does not know but Dr. Michael Gorman would be able to answer that for him. Dr. Gorman is a very resourceful superintendent and he can probably get that question to the school district. He expressed his concern as a tax payer and he went on the internet and researched that bug. The bug is harmless and can be killed with ordinary house soap yet they sprayed some industrial chemical there.....Mrs. Stinney interjected and asked who sprayed it, the school board. Mr. Ryder answered it was whoever they hired for the contract; they sent a letter out to the parents saying they were going to do the school and this is what could happen to your kid, they can't be around it, they can't touch it, they can't inhale it. But yet, that bug could have been killed with just ordinary dish soap. He doesn't think anybody is really digging and looking at what we are dealing with in this Township. The research is on the internet and all they had to do was pull up the bug. Mr. Prickett advised Council is not a board that reviews what the school board does. Mr. Ryder replied that he understands that but what he is saying is that somebody is accountable for

that being done that way. Mrs. Stinney informed he can check with the superintendent of schools, Mr. Gorman at 893-8141 and his extension is the first prompt. Mr. Ryder informed he has the number and added as a tax payer, it is still coming out of the tax payers' money. Mrs. Stinney advised she would go right to the board meeting and ask them. Mr. Ryder added he spoke with Mr. Prickett about this that we have someone who sweeps the roads and assumes he is supervised in some way. Mayor Patriarca informed no, he is a truck driver. Mr. Ryder asked if he gets industrial pay for operating that piece of equipment. Mayor Patriarca replied it is a truck driver's pay and it's contractual. Mr. Ryder stated that is industrial pay; he gets better than the average person working in the yard, Mr. Ryder asked why he can't take a clipboard with a piece of paper on it when he's going down these streets and sees these problems with the streets, write it down and bring it back to the garage. Mr. Ryder asked why the public has to get on the phone and call the public works department and hope they respond. We need to start tasking our employees to do more than just ride around in the vehicles sweeping the roads. The Mayor replied that he would hope if an employee sees a problem in a road, they would report it to their supervisor. Mr. Ryder commented as a tax payer to believe him, it doesn't happen. Mayor Patriarca replied that he does not doubt him that those things don't happen, butMr. Ryder interjected that a dump truck went up his yesterday morning, the hole is still there and the leaves are still there and they rode by probably at 3 miles per hour. Mr. Ryder sees a truck probably three times a week that lives by him, an employee for public works and that truck is home for lunch. Mayor Patriarca stated they are not picking up leaves and won't pick them up at this time because they have other tasks and leaf pick up has ended. Why they haven't addressed the pot hole, he doesn't know but has it written down and will look in to that. Mr. Ryder asked then how many employees do we need in the summer time vs. what we need in the winter time. Mayor Patriarca replied 165 is what we are up to and around 80 in public works. The Mayor advised we are the fourth largest township, municipality in the county next to Shamong, Woodland and Bass River. Its 64 square miles and there are a lot of things we don't do because we don't have enough employees. The Mayor commented that Mr. Ryder stated his potholes don't get fixed and his leaves don't get picked up but we don't have the employees to do that all year long and we don't have the employees to address this immediately. Mr. Ryder informed the leaves have been out there since November and that goes for many houses around his area. Mr. Ryder noted he delivers his own leaves here; it's easier. Mayor Patriarca remarked they appreciate that and he understands there are leaves out there in the town and we do have a list that we are working on but it's hard because they are constantly doing it throughout the year so there has to be a cutoff point so they can get the other tasks done. Mr. Ryder asked why we can't have two trucks and a bucketloader operator go out there everyday. The Mayor replied if we did that everyday, we still wouldn't be able to get all the leaves picked up in the town. It takes almost every one of our public works employees during leaf pick up to accomplish that task. It's just a huge problem in the Township. Mr. Ryder commented not if it's used efficiently, it doesn't. The Mayor stated we haven't heard the residents say not to pick up the leaves. That's a way to cut costs in the budget and everyone wants their leaves picked up but every also wants the budget cut. These are services that the residents continue to ask for and they try to provide them but they cost. Mr. Ryder asked what happened to the white box, the vacuum cleaner. Mayor Patriarca answered the vacuum does not work and quite frankly it would take this town probably a dozen boxes to accomplish that task. Mr. Ryder replied that we have enough trucks and mulchers. The Mayor informed we don't have enough money to buy the boxes. Mr. Ryder commented that we are

not using our equipment efficiently and we're not using our employees efficiently. There are more ways of doing it and he doesn't see that happening out there. The Mayor informed we are looking towards more efficient ways in that department and that's actually going to come up very soon in the budget trying to get more accountability so that we can monitor the situation more. Mr. Ryder commented on Snow Avenue last year, the county cut down a pine tree and brought out their bucket. Mayor Patriarca informed it would have been at our request and at times we work with them. Mr. Ryder added that it was and he spoke to Phil about it. Mr. Ryder asked the Mayor if he knew how many employees were on that job. The Mayor asked two and added that he didn't know. Mr. Ryder answered four trucks, eight employees and that two county not counted. Mayor Patriarca asked if that was all our employees. Mr. Ryder replied yes. The Mayor advised he is taking notes. Mr. Ryder stated to the Mayor to take all the notes he wants and reiterated that we are not using our employees efficiently and there was no reason for eight people to be on that job. Mr. Ryder commented on being at the library this week cutting down trees; three trucks and six or seven employees. It's ridiculous; there are other things in the Township they could be doing. The Mayor informed he will have them look at the software program and show him where those employees were and see if they are using them to the best of.....Mr. Ryder interjected and stated as a tax payer he sees this everyday. He's home, so he sees a lot going on with these trucks and it's a shame there is all of this equipment in the yard and we could probably park half of right it now because it's not being used the way it needs to be used. We have the county covering the county aspect of it. The Mayor differed with Mr. Ryder there and added our county roads were atrocious this year in snow removal. Mr. Ryder stated we had one storm. The Mayor stated and we barely got a road plowed by the county. Mr. Ryder asked what happened to the money from the budget from last year's snow storm and we only had a half an inch of snow and what happened to all of that money and where did it disappear to. Mayor Patriarca answered it didn't disappear, we appropriate money to overtime, for salt; we purchase salt and we have reserve for salt. Mr. Ryder asked how much was used last year in the budget vs. what we actually had on hand. Mayor Patriarca replied not as much as we budgeted for but that is something that you can't say it will take us x amount of tons of salt this year. We budget a certain amount and hope that we don't reach that. If we get more snow.....Mr. Ryder interjected and asked where the salt is sitting now, in the shed or out in the yard. The Mayor replied we don't take anymore in to the shed than the shed will hold and after that it stays with the distributor and we get it as we need it but it is purchased through a co-op agreement. Mr. Ryder asked if we don't use the money that year, where does that money go. The Mayor answered surplus. Mr. Ryder then asked what surplus and stated there is no surplus, you didn't use it. The Mayor replied there is always surplus. We carry what doesn't get used in the budget the year before gets carried over in to the next year but you can't use that until the following year. Mr. Ryder then asked why we are asking for a 9.8 percent tax raise to cover employees when there is a \$3 million dollar surplus that came from nobody knows where. Mayor Patriarca stated we know where it came from. Mr. Ryder stated to explain it to the public then. Mayor Patriarca continued it came from previous years. This is money that is raised and as a result of frugal spending, we are not expending it and if looking at the line items you will see where we may only spend 80% in a particular line or 79% in a particular line and the rest of the balance of that get sent over to surplus although some goes over. Mr. Ryder stated he worked for the government and worked in budgets and you can make those lines do whatever you want them to do. As a tax payer he is none the wise what they are doing other than the fact when all of a sudden \$10,000

shows up not being accountable. The Mayor stated that's accountable and it may take a second to determine where that money went but on the surface they aren't going to be able to say they know where line 0201 went at this particular moment. Mr. Ryder asked is he sure that's where it went and if they have to make that decision now is he sure it got to where it went. Mayor Patriarca replied it was transferred. Mr. Ryder stated you know it was transferred. The Mayor reiterated it may take a second to determine that and you're not going to take a \$23 million, \$24 million budget and know where \$10,000 was at any given time without looking or without potentially giving the wrong answer. He would hope that whoever is going to look for that would look for the right answer and present the right answer. Mr. Ryder informed in the military he was fine for over \$5 million in military equipment that he was accountable for. He could tell you where every piece of that equipment was and if he couldn't tell you, the section chief could tell him where it was. Somebody has to be accountable and that's what he doesn't see here. He doesn't see anybody being accountable. Mr. Ryder informed you are accountable to the tax payers and they can move those lines around to make them do whatever they want. The bottom line is it's still going to be a \$24 million budget. Like he said earlier, if you re-tax this Township at the cost of the property value right now, you will have less coming in than you have coming in right now and you would be in a bigger hole. Mayor Patriarca stated it's a \$24 million budget to maintain at a level of services that the residents have become accustomed to and demand and we hear in Administration daily that this is what they want; they want their leaves picked up. The Mayor continued that Mr. Ryder is here tonight saying the leaves on his street aren't picked up and these are things that residents continually ask for. We don't have enough for recreation in our town. Our Police Department, we don't have enough there, we want more here, we want more there. We try and provide these services but they don't come without an expense attached. As the Business Administrator explained, the problem is not the services. We can continue to provide these services. The problem is we don't have a revenue source to fund these services. The only revenue sources we have are you and I as the tax payer. We are not getting those additional revenue sources that we're seeking out. We're getting opposition in some areas in where we want to bring revenue in and other areas they are just not coming and that are where the problem is. Mr. Ryder commented you've got to make the hard choices. If we don't have the revenue coming in, then we can't provide the services. If it means a 15 or 20% cut in services, that's the way it's going to have to go. Somebody has to make those decisions. The Mayor stated nobody is asking for those cuts of services. The Mayor continued that about five people today came up to the microphone and that's the first time he heard lay people off, cut services. Everyone else has been saying all along throughout the process to please do not let these people and how could you sleep at night knowing you are going to lay people off. Mayor Patriarca added that it wasn't hard to sleep because he had no intention of laying anybody off and just wanted to be able to make it within that budget. If it meant a tax increase, and he's said this for the last couple of days, the only person that is going to lose his job out of this budget will be him. Because he will end up losing his position here because the people will say the Mayor raised taxes. Every employee that works for this town and serves this town faithfully will still have a job and continue to serve this town faithfully. Mr. Ryder asked if he is working on a contract where seniority has preference with the employees. Mayor Patriarca asked in what regards. Mr. Ryder responded in employment. The Mayor stated we are under civil service and seniority does have a.....Mr. Ryder interjected and asked if the low man has to go. The Mayor answered low man in the department would go and that is correct. Mr. Ryder reiterated it is a tough decision

to make and we are in those times. He lost money in the stock market. The Mayor added he is with him there. Mr. Ryder knows a lot of people lost money in 401K's. The Mayor stated they refer to them as 201K's now. Mr. Ryder commented we are not talking do we have the money; no we don't have the money; it's not here to have. Unfortunately, somebody has to pay the piper. As a tax payer, he hates to see anybody lose their job but that's what Administration is being paid for. They have to represent the majority and not the minority. As the majority, he is saying he can't afford it. Mr. Ryder asked the Mayor if he has looked at what it cost an elderly person for medication. The Mayor answered he is aware there are high costs out there to survive today. Mr. Ryder stated somebody has to make the choice and it falls on the Mayor. The Mayor didn't disagree with Mr. Ryder that a choice has to be made but there was much more opposition in the plan to lay off when we were at that point than there was to lay off. When they were planning to lay off, that's all they heard for days was how can you do that. They were constantly bombarded with you can not lay these off. They were getting letters and so many people and different government agencies telling them how great these employees are and you can't let them go and we don't want to lose the services. The Mayor stated up until now this is probably the first time he heard anyone come out and publicly say we should be laying off employees. Obviously they have prepared for that but had hoped to avoid that. Mr. Ryder informed he worked for the government for forty years. He went through not getting paid because the budget wasn't settled in the federal government. He knows what it's like to not have your money coming in. He worked for the state. When he started in 1967, he got paid what they felt like paying him because they didn't have the money in the budget to pay them. He might get a check one week for \$300 and another check the following week for \$700. It's tough. Mayor Patriarca added there were a lot of tough times during those years and asked Mr. Ryder if he was every laid off. Mr. Ryder replied he was never laid off. The Mayor stated he was fortunate. Mr. Ryder stated he worked consecutively all the way from when he was 19 years old to the time he retired at age 60. Mrs. Stinney thanked the Mayor for answering those questions and thanked Mr. Ryder and asked him if he got his questions answered. Mr. Ryder stated he did. Mrs. Stinney commented that it's clear that there was very healthy dialogue at this particular time during our meetings that sometimes we don't have that opportunity to dialogue or interact or have that conversation with the Mayor and Business Administrator. Mrs. Stinney again thanked the Mayor for the interaction and the dialogue that he afforded one of our residents. **Betty Donelson: 1.** Mrs. Donelson advised she wanted to put her questions in writing before the next meeting or whatever meeting she gets to. Mrs. Stinney commented now that we know we don't have a hurry, hurry; we can get all of those questions answered. Mrs. Stinney informed Mrs. Young is writing those questions down so if we don't get those answers tonight, we will get them for you. Mrs. Donelson asked the Mayor if he also got telephone calls and letters about the increases that were granted as well as the lay offs. Mrs. Donelson commented that the Mayor made a statement that he got telephone calls and letters about people not wanting anyone laid off and did he also get telephone calls and letters about the increases for the supervisors that were given recently, the CWA workers. Mayor Patriarca advised he received no calls on the Police increases, public work increases, AFSCME increases but yes, he received calls, not many, in regard to the CWA. **2.** Mrs. Donelson noted that Mr. Vaz mentioned the increase in the budget was for salaries and wages of \$168,000. Mrs. Donelson asked if we know how many the recent increases for the supervisors, the 12 employees, what part of the \$168,000 that would reflect. The Mayor stated if he recalls and not to quote him on that, it is in the area of \$150,000 over the course of their five year

contract. Mrs. Donelson asked what it would be for 2009 and would it be \$150,000. Mayor Patriarca responded he does not have that. Mr. Vaz advised he did have a spreadsheet prepared but it is with the CWA negotiation items and is not with the budget items he has with him right now. Mrs. Stinney informed Mrs. Donelson that we will get that for her. **3.** Remarked that a gentleman came up and talked about using our services more efficiently and public works driving down the road a couple of times a week. Mrs. Donelson stated you have to go right back to supervisors. It's the supervisors that you have that you just gave a great big increase to and it's their responsibility to know that their people are working, to give out the work details and what have you. Mrs. Donelson continued that we don't need to go in to any computer equipment, any GPS system or anything that is going to cost more money. Let them run the department. If they don't know how to run the department, then they should go. A lot of these people were put in there as favors and if they can't do the job, get rid of them. **4.** Asked how much surplus we have and can use this year and put against this budget and what's in the pot. Mr. Prickett replied there is \$3.2 million this year. Mr. Vaz added in the budget. Mr. Prickett continued that Administration has proposed using all but \$800,000 of it. Mr. Vaz stated no. The Mayor commented that we have approximately \$4 million and were proposing approximately \$3.2 in this budget. The Mayor commented to Mrs. Donelson just so we're clear, all of those jobs that she claims were given as favors, he was not here then and doesn't think any of them were here. Mrs. Donelson stated that the Mayor was not here. Mrs. Stinney interjected that someone actually called her today and asked her how many relatives do we have related in this Township. Mrs. Stinney reiterated that someone actually called her and asked her how many relatives and how did it happen that a relative will bring in another relative and then another relative and they actually asked her that number and she guessed that maybe she should have gotten that number and get that number and referred to a gentleman that talked about efficiency and she should have those questions and should have been able to answer that. Mrs. Donelson stated she could tell them that. Mrs. Donelson continued if it's a small town, it happens. If it's done the right way, it's done the right way. If it's not, it's not. Mr. Prickett commented that he doesn't understand where the Mayor gets the \$4 million from. The reserve for uncollected taxes is \$3,200,000 and asked if the Mayor could explain the added \$800,000. Mr. Vaz stated that is what is in the budget and the balance that we would be able to start 2010 with would be \$800,000. Mr. Prickett commented that clears that up so we have \$4 million and are leaving \$800,000 as surplus for next year. **5.** Mrs. Donelson asked if before the departments put in their budget or maybe in addition to whatever they are requesting, do they have to provide a list of equipment, trucks, computers, anything that they presently have so that you know what they have compared to what they are asking for new, like an inventory thing. Mrs. Stinney deferred to the Mayor. The Mayor informed we are in the process of doing that throughout the Township and they don't have to supply an inventory of what they have. Mr. Vaz interjected with other than vehicles and we have a vehicle inventory. Mrs. Donelson asked if there are a lot of vehicles or computers or anything in this budget new that are maybe unnecessary. Mrs. Donelson commented that is a general question and reiterated that she has a lot of questions and will probably just put them in writing and try to get them.....Mrs. Stinney commented no, that's fine and there are a couple of computers here and a couple there and we just had this department here.....Mr. Vaz interjected that most every department has a line that we budget a contingency for at least one computer so that if a computer breaks during the year, we have somewhere to charge a new one or to refurbish that one. In instances where there is something very specific that we're looking to purchase,

it's indicated in the document that's on the screen and the document that Council and Administration has and there's a note that is indicated so it's flagged so there can be a discussion on it. Across the departments, there's at least one computer in every department and that doesn't mean they're going to get one. It just means it's there in case they need one. Mrs. Donelson asked if those contingencies add up to quite a bit of money. Mr. Vaz responded yes, but if some bodies computer breaks down in the middle of the year. Mrs. Donelson commented that she doesn't mean just for computers. Mr. Vaz stated he was just using that as an example. Mrs. Donelson stated most of the budget is made up of salaries and wages and she was one of the people and still is that doesn't want to see anybody laid off because she knows how tough it is out there and she knows what a great place this is to work and hopefully all of those other employees know too. Mrs. Donelson suggested to Council to look at the O&E. It doesn't make up a big part of the increase and maybe you could decrease some of that. Anything that helps. Mrs. Donelson suggested instead of giving \$3,000 for something, maybe cut it to \$1,500, take a look at it, it's worth a shot even if you can save half of them. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mrs. Donelson. Mr. Prickett informed Mrs. Donelson that one penny is \$87,890 so it would be possible to cut this down by some pennies. Mrs. Donelson agreed and added one penny at a time. Mr. Prickett agreed one penny at a time. **Michael Tamn: 1.** Quite sure that Mr. Vaz is very competent and he has done a good job. If he is given the orders by the Mayor and the Council to come up with a zero increase budget, he would do it. You just have to tell him and that's what he is paid for. You tell him what to do and he'll do it. It's not a problem if you want to do it. It's up to you and the Mayor to want to do it. It's simple, you tell him you want a zero increase budget. Yes, the revenue is down but if things were cut there, you wouldn't be expending that money this year and therefore you wouldn't have to raise the taxes with it. It's plain and simple. Mr. Tamn stated he knows the revenues are down but every year taxes go up. Now we hear there is a \$4 million surplus. Mr. Tamn then asked why were taxes raised last year and we had a surplus last year and why were they raised before. It's like a three ring circus. In the process, the budget is still getting bigger even though they say it's smaller it's getting bigger. It's not getting more efficient, you've just added to it like the last thirty year or so it's been added to tremendously as far as he is concerned. It should be cut back. If you give Mr. Vaz the marching orders, he could do it. It might take him a week to do it but he can come up with a budget with a zero increase on it. Mr. Vaz saw no revenue sheets on the end of the budget book. We don't have the slightest clue of where the anticipated revenue is. Mr. Tamn asked where did this \$4 million come from. Was it part of \$1.6 million that was suppose to be paid for property behind Deborah and what happened to that money and is that money in here. Mr. Tamn informed he heard a month and a half ago that we may have problems because of investment. What investments were there in the Township. Did any investments in the Township lose money. Mr. Tamn stated he is asking these questions and what is it and these are questions in peoples' minds when they hear these figures and statements and they don't have answers. Then you ask for 10.8 cents for an increase and it doesn't wash at all. Mr. Prickett stated to Mr. Tamn that he has that question also and the question he has is there is a 95.38 collection of taxes last year. Mr. Tamn stated that is good. Mr. Prickett asked what revenues are down if there was such a good collection of taxes last year and the year before and why are we worried about revenues then. Mrs. Stinney stated we are talking about this year here and asked Mr. Vaz if he wanted to respond. Mr. Vaz informed that last year the reserve for uncollected taxes was \$1.1 million and this year it's actually almost \$1.5 million so it went up almost \$400,000. The collection rate did go down in 2008 which means we have to raise

more money to have the reserve set aside so we can pay the County the money that they get even if we're not bringing the money in. Generally in answer to the revenue question, we have the financial statements from the Auditor about two weeks ago and that's where we would have all of the revenue information. Mr. Prickett asked if Council can see those and can get those. Mrs. Stinney replied Council is. Mr. Vaz remarked that he thought Council did have them and didn't know if they were scanned to Council but Administration does have the financial statements. Mr. Tamn informed he would like to see them. Mr. Vaz replied he is welcome to see them. Mr. Vaz pointed out that when this process was started in January when Administration determined that they should at least get a lay off plan approved and was working on certain numbers before the financial statements were provided to them by the Auditor, our surplus number was a lot lower than the \$4 million. What happens is that while they were doing the financial statements, the Auditor found money that he was able to bring over in to surplus as a one time shot because of how it had been set up before. That's surplus that is not going to be there next year that we were able to bring over this year because a lot of the figuring was done using \$1.2 million in surplus and it shot up because of the Auditor doing the financial statements. That was one thing they told everybody when they were doing the lay off plan that this is based on unaudited numbers and are not based on financial statements. Once they got all of the information, that's when they saw the spike in the surplus and then were able to bring \$3.2 million over. Even with that, the tax levy cap and the way budgets are done now because of the state restrictions; we still have a revenue problem. The financial statements have all of the details about where that revenue comes from. Mr. Tamn conveyed he has been asking for two years to cut taxes and to cut employees through attrition and it has not been done. Mayor Patriarca informed that it has been done and it is continuing as they speak. Police have left that have not been replaced. Mr. Tamn replied that the whole system has not been done. The basic thing is no matter what you have, the people are going to get an increase. No matter where it comes from, they are going to get an increase. Using the entire surplus this year and someone did mention too, what is going to happen next year. Next year the turnaround in the economy is not going to happen in one year. It's not going to come January 1st and everything is bright and revenues are up. We might be the same, we might be a little better but we may be worse next year. In anticipation that the Township is going to be in a worse situation next year, you better expect that because that's the reality of it. It's not going to be until 2011 that there will possibly be some relief on it. There is not going to get relief here. Talk to anybody in municipal government that knows anything in the state or has dealt with it and that's what they're going to come up with. If you don't anticipate it now, instead of 10.8% on top of it, there will probably be 22 cents or 25 cents next year and he's not kidding that is very realistic at the rate you're going. Keep on expanding everything instead of looking at it. Mr. Tamn reiterated again to give the orders to Mr. Vaz the Township Administrator and leave him alone and let him work on that budget and come up with a zero increase on taxes and he would produce it in seven days or less. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Tamn for his comments. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Vaz that he mentioned the Auditors and he doesn't know where they looked but somewhere in the finances of the municipalities and was that Frenia or Bowman that discovered this. Mr. Vaz informed it was Bowman the new auditor. Mr. Prickett asked if it was \$3.2 million. Mr. Vaz answered no; \$3.2 million is what we brought in to the budget to support the budget. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Vaz how much Bowman found that they can put in to the surplus. Mr. Vaz replied he would have to look at the financial statement and there is one particular part of it he remembered that he found a half million dollar shot in the capital side of the

budget that he brought over and again that is a one time. Mr. Vaz deferred to Mrs. Eden. Mrs. Eden advised when we borrowed the note, we hadn't borrowed in a few years and when we borrowed the note, for all of the capital projects that had been on-going for the last few years we paid back the inter fund to the general fund and that was \$500,000 which is allowed to be used as revenue. Those inter funds are what kept those projects going when it was decided not to borrow. It was the capital projects and that's where the \$500,000 came from. Mr. Vaz added that back in January and February there were a few question marks that Bowman's office had pointed out to him when they were in the midst of doing the lay off plan. Luckily half of them turned out in favor of the Township in terms of being able to use that money on the revenue side. Mr. Prickett asked if we were to add up all of the money that was budgeted and subtract all of the money that was expended, would we come up with a number that would be half of the surplus. Mr. Prickett asked for a ball park number and stated that's generally how you get surplus, what you don't spend. Mr. Vaz answered that's one area. Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Vaz if he would be able to put together an explanation of where the entire surplus came from. He has part of it but hadn't heard about the Auditor going in and looking at any funds or any notes that had been.....Mr. Vaz answered it was just part of the annual financial statement process. Mr. Prickett commented it is important and council always gets the revenue at the end of the Council budget discussions and we always get information about the surplus at the end and that is really something and Council should know the money coming in up front. Then everything might fall in to place a lot more easily that way. Mr. Prickett thanked Mr. Vaz. There being no additional members of the public wishing to comment, Mrs. Stinney closed the meeting to public comment.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT #310 (CONTINUED)

Mrs. Stinney advised Council is on page 49 of 91. Mr. Prickett advised he had a question on page 48 regarding the geese chasers that are also included in the Recreation budget. Mrs. Stinney deferred to Mr. Vaz for the geese chasers. Mr. Vaz stated he thought that was answered before the break and added that when he mentioned geese chasers he was explaining as it was spent in the 2008 budget and was charged against lake management because we had not budgeted for geese chasers. This year it is being budgeted under Recreation and is not being budgeted under lake management. Mr. Prickett commented that when he asked about lake management, either Mr. Vaz or the Mayor stated it was geese chasers. Mr. Prickett asked if we don't need to have a reference to geese chasers under lake management within buildings and grounds. Mr. Vaz asked for the line item. Mr. Prickett informed it is line 2911 on page 48. Mr. Vaz informed he is not seeing a note in lake management and asked Mr. Prickett if he sees it in the supplemental book. Mr. Prickett noted he must or it was mentioned. Mr. Cartier advised it is not there either. Mr. Vaz noted that he doesn't see it either and asked Mr. Prickett if he has something different. Mr. Prickett commented he will take a look and see if he can find it and if not, maybe it was just an error and that's fine; he just wanted to clear it up. Mrs. Stinney commented to Mr. Prickett while he is doing that, she would like the rest of the Council members since we are not in a push, push, hurry for the finalizing and do have the deadline and suggested after this department call it an evening. Mr. Prickett informed he does not see it in the supplement and he thought somebody mentioned it but it's not there. Mr. Cartier asked if that is a correction for \$5,000 or a request for Council to add \$5,000. Mrs. Stinney informed it is to add. Mr. Cartier remarked he does not have a problem adding \$5,000 but his problem comes in using that \$5,000 to put up a chain link fence; an unsightly project in probably one of the most beautiful parts of the Township just doesn't

make sense to him. Mr. Cartier suggested coming up with some other way and he understands that Administration wants to fight the ATV issue out in that area but there has to be another way. To use the \$5,000 for that purpose to fight the ATV issue is fine, but he can't support the chain link fence. Mayor Patriarca informed Administration is open to suggestions and added that is the only thing they can do without tripling the cost or maybe even quadrupling it to put something esthetically pleasing. Nothing at all will not solve that problem; not address that problem. Mr. Cartier expressed the concern with it as far as it being unsightly; it might last two weeks because those kids are going to tear that fence right down to ride those ATVs. The Mayor begged to differ because it's a residential area with houses directly across the street and it won't be put up in the woods. The fence will be along the edge of the road and doesn't know that they can see that. Mr. Cartier stated a pair of wire cutters or bolt cutters and snip, snip, snip, in and out in five minutes. Mr. Cartier added that the Mayor of all people should know how.....The Mayor stated he is not saying it can't be done in less than five minutes; he just doesn't know if that area because it is a well lit area and most of the activity occurs in the daytime it is not night time activity where they are getting the complaints, it's broad daylight. Especially during the weekends, they run right down the roads from their house right down Wissahickon and in to the woods. If they didn't have that area to go to.....we'll be looking at another area because they will get forced in to another area and will just drive down to another area and at some point we will have to address that area also. It would be nice if some point if a parent would address it with their kid that they know has a four wheel drive quad and no place on their property to ride it but the kid goes out and rides it everyday. Mrs. Stinney asked the Mayor how we can get information out and she heard him mention the other day about the Police Department is cracking down on those ATV's and how can we get this information out further than where it is now of the penalties with these ATV's as opposed to \$5,000 worth of fencing that maybe like Mr. Cartier said is just waiting to be destroyed. That's the problem that we have here that she is asking him to address on the Recreation supplies with the swings and those sorts of things like that that kids have a tendency to tear up. Mrs. Stinney reiterated how we can get that information out that there will be a substantial penalty. Mayor Patriarca informed the Police Department has put out a notice to the public in the paper explaining what the penalties are and where they can and can't ride these things. We can't just constantly do this in the paper without having some type of either deterrent or try and eliminate the problem. The fence is a step in eliminating the problem. The deterrent is the enforcement action the Police are attempting to address but it's tough because they can't sit out there on the road constantly and wait for the four wheel drive. When it does come down it makes it difficult because we have actually created a dangerous situation when a four wheel drive and a Police vehicle cruiser ends up in a chase and quite often ends up in a crash. Mr. Inge and Mr. Prickett did not have any other comments. Mrs. Stinney advised Council is on page 49 of 91. Council did not have any comments. Mr. Cartier stated he didn't know because nobody else seemed to share his concerns with the fence so he doesn't know....Mr. Prickett commented that nobody else made a motion to add it to the budget either. Mr. Prickett added that he thinks it should have been in the budget, if there had been a concern it should have been here. We're looking at trying to not add pennies to the budget; we're looking to increase decrease pennies on the budget. Mayor Patriarca remarked that this was a solution that just recently came up in the past week and it is something that we know is a problem.

Motion by Cartier and Prickett to approve Department 310 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stinney confirmed with Council to conclude here this evening and continue on Saturday morning at 9:00 am regardless of what the paper says.

Motion by Prickett to adjourn

Mr. Cartier requested Council comments as there were comments made this evening about his comments and he's sorry to see that that person has left. However, he is not a very phrased public speaker but he will never refrain from speaking what he believes to be fact that this Township is open to petty lawsuits on an annual basis by any individual. He is not saying that there are not legitimate lawsuits out there but Council has approved more than their fair share of petty, anti lawsuits in this Township that would cost more to defend than it does to pay these people off to go away. For him to say that people are out here just looking for a pay day is an absolute fact that Council approved here these last two years.

Mr. Inge stated he would like to take Mr. Tamn's advice and ask the Business Administrator to go back and come back with a zero percent increase on the budget. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Inge for his comments.

Mr. Prickett stated he looks forward to seeing the public again this Saturday at 9:00 am. He doesn't think Mr. Inge's request is unreasonable. It would be nice to have two budgets to compare. Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Prickett for his comments.

Mrs. Stinney commented that it is great to have public participation here this evening. She is very, very pleased and happy to have that. Unfortunately maybe with the newspaper having a wrong time maybe kind of threw some people off but she is grateful to have public participation because that's what we have to be about and that's what we need to make sure the public has that opportunity to come forward and state how they feel about the budget. Mrs. Stinney advised that while she respects that each person does have the freedom to say what he or she wants, she is asking that we continue to work in a positive direction in getting through the budget process for the best interest of our Township residents that we have heard here this evening. Mr. Cartier asked if that is a motion by Mr. Inge to send this budget back to the Mayor and the Administrator. Mr. Inge advised he would like to make that motion. Mr. Prickett advised he would personally like to see what happens on Saturday before he would consider seconding that motion. Mr. Inge asked if there will be time with the deadlines and he knows it was extended but will there be time to send the Administrator back to redo the budget. Mr. Prickett informed they have until the 31st. Mrs. Stinney noted this is just the 11th and they have until the 31st. Mr. Prickett stated in order to second that motion, Council needs to have full complement of Council present. Mrs. Stinney agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Young, MMC
Township Clerk