

TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON

SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 30, 2010

6:30 P.M.

Council President Scull 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

Richard Prickett
Diane Stinney
Ken Cartier
Tom Inge
Sherry Scull

ABSENT

Also present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Chris Vaz, Chief Financial Officer Linda Eden, and Deputy Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski

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

BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FORMAL ACTION, AS ADVERTISED: For the purpose of discussing the 2010 Municipal Budget as presented by the Mayor. Formal action may be taken.

MAYOR DAVID PATRIARCA:

Mayor Patriarca reported that the budget he submitted to Council is a reduction from last year's budget, and is \$23,687,554 in total. He advised that there has been a reduction in appropriations of approximately \$600,000 without the reserve for uncollected. The Mayor relayed that Administration has followed the State's directives in their actions by imposing the CAPS and forcing municipalities to utilize all revenue sources available. He noted that Administration wanted to present a budget that reflected the concerns of the residents who constantly tell Administration to reduce their taxes but never state to reduce their services. The Mayor continued that Administration has met the residents' needs by reducing their taxes, not by much, but the taxes were not increased in this budget. The Mayor explained there were a number of retirees which helped reduce the budget, and more surplus was utilized in this budget than in 2008 leaving them with a little less than in 2008 but it is still a responsible budget and will still meet the needs of the residents in the upcoming year.

BUDGET REVIEW BY COUNCIL:

Council members received answers from Administration to their various questions regarding various line items within each department. Mayor Patriarca advised a penny equals \$85,900.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION DEPT. 100

Mr. Prickett noted general administration has increased \$80,000 over last year for the Lobbyist, which he previously voted against. Mr. Prickett stated to take it out of the budget, line item 2-02800 Contract Services. Council President Scull noted that a contract has already been signed. Mayor Patriarca confirmed.

Motion by Prickett and Cartier to approve Mayor/Administration, Department 100, as presented by the Mayor. Prickett, no; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Stinney, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL DEPT. 110

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Township Council, Department 110, as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL CLERK DEPT. 120

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Municipal Clerk, Department 120, as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

FINANCE AND AUDIT ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT 130

Mr. Prickett commented that last year's budget does not match up with this year's budget. Mayor Patriarca explained that part of this year's budget includes a part time employee from Administration and one half of an employee from the Clerk's office that have been moved in to Finance to replace an employee that is currently out on medical to make sure the Finance office runs efficiently.

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Finance and Audit Administration, Department 130, as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

AUDIT SERVICES DEPARTMENT 135

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Audit Services, Department 135, as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTION AND LIENS DEPARTMENT 144

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Office of Tax Collection and Liens, Department 144, as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTION DEPARTMENT 145

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Tax Collection, Department 145, as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

Council President Scull recessed the meeting for a break at approximately 7:51 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Scull opened the meeting to public comments. Those indicating a desire to be heard were: **Steve Skulimoski:** Mr. Skulimoski discussed the timeframe the public has to review the budget. He confirmed that surplus is being used in this year's and last year's budget. He asked for the outlook for next year's budget with \$600,000 in surplus and if there will be a tax increase. Council President Scull replied there is no way of knowing what next year will be. **Roseann Monroe:** Stated that the Abbott District is more important to her than hiring a lobbyist. Pemberton Township's schools are what are making their Township better. Council President Scull advised she has spoken with Congressman Adler regarding the Abbott District and advised they have an Abbott attorney who is handling the court case regarding Fort Dix. Council President Scull advised Pemberton Township was declared the sending district for New Hanover children living on New Hanover land and they want to change that now that they are one base and they want North Hanover. Council President Scull suggested Ms. Monroe contact her legislatures in District 8 and tell them they need their support to keep those children in Pemberton Township schools. Mrs. Stinney conveyed that many legislatures have tried to disband the Abbott districts for many years. She also suggested Ms. Monroe contact her legislatures to show their support for Abbott and tomorrow night would be a great forum for her to express that. Losing the Abbott funding is going to be very detrimental to their homeowners in the long run and are seeing it start already this year. Council President Scull spoke of the importance of the Live Where You Work Program where people can purchase a house in Pemberton Township if they work in Pemberton Township. Ms. Monroe asked why they have temporary employees and can't they hire a part time temporary employee and not transfer from one office to another because that is a job and it's better than paying overtime. Council President confirmed with the Mayor that overtime is not being paid for the two employees in the Finance Department. The Mayor added that they are not temporary employees in the Finance Department; one is a part time employee from Administration and the second employee is a full time employee from the Clerk's office who works half of her day in the Clerk's office and the other half in the Finance Department. Council President Scull explained it is being done to save money because if they hired someone on a temporary basis that would be an additional salary; it would be another job but it would be additional money in their budget and that is what the Mayor has tried to avoid. Mayor Patriarca added that they do hire temporary people for temporary jobs at certain times but the particular job in the Finance Department is not a temporary position; it is a full time position that they are replacing with two half positions. There are some temporary positions built into the budget for things such as leaf collection where they are only needed for a certain period of time. Ms. Monroe asked why they are renting land that belongs to Fort Dix where the trailers and compost are. The Mayor replied that they are not. Ms. Monroe asked why they are renting storage and office equipment. Council President Scull explained it is cheaper to lease it because once one buys it they have to pay for every repair. Ms. Monroe asked about getting a service contract like she does for her dishwasher. Mrs. Scull explained it doesn't work the same way and it's very expensive. Mr. Prickett noted that Ms. Monroe made a good point referring to the mobile mini storage trailers and asked the Mayor to look into whether it is more economical to purchase the trailers vs. leasing them. Mayor Patriarca expressed that it is unreasonable to think that Administration has not looked into it and noted that the cost of one trailer is approximately \$17,000.

The Mayor explained that he believes in purchasing and does not lease vehicles. Sometimes in the budget process it does make sense such as the copy machines that once you buy it, it's yours and the maintenance program may cost over \$1,000. Ms. Monroe commented she did not realize there were papers in the trailers. Mr. Prickett explained the Township has documents they have to archive for years. Ms. Monroe stated that is not a good idea because it will get moldy. Mrs. Scull explained when the papers were stored in the basement, they did get moldy. Ms. Monroe suggested looking in to some place to secure the documents. Mayor Patriarca stated Administration is looking into digitizing the documents. Ms. Monroe confirmed the election costs are for voting machines, poll workers, etc. Ms. Monroe suggested Council state the page number and line item number for the public to follow. Ms. Monroe asked if the Township is locked into a contract with Ragan Design. Ms. Monroe asked about Mr. Ragan making a statement regarding a business owner that was not true. Council President Scull conveyed the business owner needs to be at the meeting and if they feel differently or have different information, they can give it. Ms. Monroe remarked she went to a meeting when Mr. Vaz went to a concert. Mr. Vaz informed he missed a Council meeting two years ago for a Bruce Springsteen concert. Ms. Monroe asked if the Business Administrator had to be in attendance at Council meetings. Council President Scull expressed we hope everybody makes the meeting as often as they possibly can; it's a commitment. Council President Scull relayed that the Mayor and Business Administrator are not required to be at Council meetings. Ms. Monroe then asked if they are not required to be in attendance, then Council can do whatever and one.....Mr. Cartier interrupted clarifying that the Business Administrator has to be at Council meetings. Mr. Vaz responded the ordinance does require that. Mr. Prickett commented that the ordinances require a number of things that might not be stated. Mr. Cartier asked Mr. Vaz what ordinance he is referring to. Mr. Vaz answered there is an ordinance that applies to the responsibilities of the Business Administrator. Mr. Cartier commented the state statute does not require it. Mr. Prickett commented that the ordinance also stated something about the Police Chief being in attendance as well but he is not here. Ms. Monroe conveyed if that is part of the Police Chief's salary.....Mr. Prickett stated the Police Chief is directed not to be here. Council President Scull stated all of the department heads fall under the office of Administration under the Mayor and not under the office of Administration of the Council. If Council wants them here, Council can direct the Mayor to have them here for a certain meeting and certain purpose. Ms. Monroe asked if Ragan Design can be fired if they find out he is doing nothing and it's not worth the money. Council President Scull replied no. Ms. Monroe asked if they are locked in with them. Mrs. Scull answered no, when Council reappoints them every year, Council has the ability to.....Mr. Prickett commented to Ms. Monroe regarding the Marketing and Branding Study that is being done with UEZ funds and that is an association with the revitalization study that is being done for the town center. Ms. Monroe expressed that they lost money and they are taking a lot of money from the UEZ programs. Council President Scull expressed this is money that they already have. Mrs. Scull explained the marketing and branding study will include talking to residents, flyers will be sent home with students, there will be an opportunity to go on line to give opinions and they are talking to residents about what they want to see in the town center. They will also be talking to the employees of the Township for the school system, customers and businesses who may not live here and military personnel. Restaurants do not want to come here because they have less than 30,000 people. The marketing and branding study is trying to prove that by the time they have the

people at Deborah, the schools and the military, that they have enough people to support these businesses. Mr. Prickett commented that the architecture, the design that Ragan and Associates came up with is a result of the revitalization study that has been going on for two years. As far as the marketing and branding study, that is more or less what businesses are looking for.....Council President Scull thanked Mr. Prickett and added that one of the conversations she had when she was interviewed was what her impression was of what kind of design should be down town. Mr. Prickett asked if he is aware of the revitalization study. Mrs. Scull replied he is and he was here with Mr. McCabe during their business meeting. Ms. Monroe asked if plows were purchased through UEZ. Mrs. Scull answered it was for snow plows. Ms. Monroe commented that the business district goes through county roads. Mrs. Scull answered not all of it. Mayor Patriarca commented that the plows are utilized throughout the town but primarily the trucks are utilized in the UEZ area but they do some plowing in the UEZ area. Ms. Monroe asked why it isn't Pemberton Township instead of UEZ. Mrs. Scull replied because it was purchased with UEZ funds so that it would not be Township tax payer dollars. Ms. Monroe asked how many groups are meeting a month. Council President Scull replied Planning Board, Zoning Board, MUA, Two Council, Environmental, Veterans Advisory and Senior Citizens Advisory.

There being no additional members of the public indicating a desire to be heard, Council President Scull closed the meeting to public comments.

SOLID WASTE 146

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Solid Waste, Department 146 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

OFFICE OF PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT 150

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Office of Property Tax Assessment, Department 150 as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

LEGAL SERVICES 155

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Legal Services Department 155 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

ENGINEERING SERVICES 165

Mr. Cartier confirmed with Mr. Vaz that funds are in this budget for a Planning Board Advocate. Mr. Vaz added that the Planner can meet with individuals who have general questions about Planning Board applications.

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Engineering Services, Department 165 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

UEZ–URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE 170

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve UEZ–Urban Enterprise Zone, Department 170 as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Cartier stepped out of the room at approximately 9:08 p.m. and returned at approximately 9:11 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD 180

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Planning Board, Department 180 as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

ZONING BOARD 185

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Zoning Board, Department 185 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT 195

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Code Enforcement, Department 195 as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

INSURANCE 210

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Insurance, Department 210 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, no; Inge, no; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

WORKERS COMP & LIABILITY 215

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Workers Comp & Liability Department 215 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

Council President Scull recessed the meeting at approximately 10:17 p.m. for a short break and reconvened the meeting at approximately 10:25 p.m.

GROUP MEDICAL 220

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Group Medical, Department 220 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

UNEMPLOYMENT 225

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Unemployment, Department 225 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT 240

Motion by Cartier and Stinney to approve Police Department 240 as presented by the Mayor. Cartier, yes; Stinney, yes; Prickett, yes; Inge, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 252

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT 254

Motion by Stinney and Cartier to approve Fire Department 254 as presented by the Mayor. Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes; Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

AID TO FIRE COMPANIES 255

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

AID TO EMERGENCY SQUADS 260

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

PAID AMBULANCE SERVICE 262

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

FIRE HYDRANT RENTAL 265

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

Motion by Inge and Prickett to adjourn the meeting. Inge, yes; Prickett, yes; Stinney, no; Cartier, no; Scull, yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk

