

BUDGET MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

A budget meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Oxford was held on February 8, 2016 in the Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey.

Mayor Pasquini announced that the meeting had been properly advertised in compliance with the OPMA of 1975 and called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Everyone stood and recited the flag salute.

In attendance were, Marc Pasquini, Robert Nyland, Bill Ryan, Dawn Stanchina, Anthony Ardito, Auditor and Sheila L. Oberly.

Mayor Pasquini stated that the Township could possibly receive a check from Warren County in the amount of \$490,000, as early as March for the purchase of land on Jonestown Road.

Ms. Stanchina said that she forwarded all the numbers to Mr. Ardito that the Committee agreed upon at the last budget meeting on January 6, 2016 and asked that he compile a worksheet with these figures and to try to keep the tax rate flat.

Mr. Ardito informed the Committee that revenue and surplus decreased in 2015 and the appropriations increased which would put the 2016 budget over the levy cap. Mr. Ardito stated that the tax collection rate is also low.

Mr. Ardito said that the 2016 appropriations would increase the average homeowner's taxes to \$245.00 a year on a house assessed at \$180,000.00, which is too high.

The Committee reviewed the amounts in each line item and decreased some of the larger line items:

- Electric-\$7,000.00
- Gasoline-\$5,000.00
- Natural Gas-\$8,000.00
- Capital-\$25,000.00

Mr. Ryan asked what the salaries were for the part-time workers in 2014 and in January 2015.

Ms. Stanchina answered:

- 2015 \$18,790.00
- January 1 to 31, 2016 2,975.00

Mr. Ryan asked that \$10,000.00 be taken out of the line item, Building and Grounds and set up a new line item-Salt Trust.

Mr. Ryan stated that each year an amount should be put in this account, to pay for salt and grit and to have additional funds available in case of an emergency.

The Committee and Mr. Ardito agreed to use surplus to balance the 2016 budget.

After careful review of the 2016 budget, the Committee decided to keep taxes flat. There will be no increase in municipal taxes.

Public Comment:

Questions were asked if banks are paying taxes on the foreclosure properties. Mayor Pasquini answered that some banks were but it is a lengthy process to get the banks to maintain these properties.

On motion by Mayor Pasquini, seconded by Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC