

**BUDGET MEETING
MARCH 20, 2019**

A budget meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Oxford was held on March 20, 2019 in the Township Municipal Building, at 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey.

In attendance were Robert Nyland, Bill Ryan, Gerald Norton, Dawn Stanchina, CFO, Anthony Ardito, Auditor and Sheila L. Oberly, Municipal Clerk.

The flag salute was recited.

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Mr. Ardito stated that he talked to Tina from the State of New Jersey about Transitional Aid. He said that the application will be available the first week in April, complete it and the Township should hear by the end of April the State's decision.

Mr. Ardito stated that the Township would have to use all their surplus before receiving any aid from the State of NJ. He also stated that there is 1.6 million in Surplus, \$400,000.00 Tax Title Liens are still owed and the State suggested to decrease appropriations for example Streets, Building and Grounds by \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

Mr. Ardito explained that the Township is losing \$600,000.00 a year in revenue because Covanta is closing. He did the numbers of the impact to the average taxpayer-an increase of \$612.00 per year on a house assessed at \$166,000.00. A house assessed at \$300,000.00, the increase would be \$1,200.00 a year in Municipal Taxes. The taxes would not increase that much because of the 2% Levy Cap.

Mr. Ardito played with the numbers and on an average house of \$165,000.00 the increase would be \$126.00 per year, Municipal Tax.

Mr. Ardito suggested that the Committee put together the application for Transitional Aid this year, even though it is doubtful the Township will get aid for 2019 but the application can be updated next year. (2020).

Mr. Ardito stated that once Transitional Aid is received by the Township, the State of New Jersey tells you what you can do and where to cut expenses-basically runs the Township.

The Committee agreed to cut \$10,000.00 each from the line items-Engineering, and Streets and Roads-Salaries. Also, to drop The Capital Improvement Fund by \$15,000.00.

Mr. Ardito stated that \$.38 cents was lost on the tax rate without the \$600,000.00 revenue from Covanta. Mr. Ardito stated that each penny is worth \$15,805.00. He will use \$100,000.00 Sewer Surplus in the 2019 Operating Budget.

Mike Mack, Chief of the Oxford Fire Department attended the meeting and said that the tanker would cost \$334,000.00 with hoses included.

Mr. Ardito will call Tina, NJ Division of Local Government Services and ask exactly what the Township is allowed to do.

Mr. Norton stated that the 2019 school tax is increasing too by approximately \$160.00 year.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC

