

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

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**Wednesday, February 9, 2005 - 6:40 p.m.**

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**PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE** - Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order stating that notice of the meeting had been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and The Times (the official newspapers) on February 4, 2005 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

**ROLL CALL:** Those answering the roll call of the Deputy Municipal Clerk:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Iorio, Niederer, Sandom, Sandahl, Mayor Kemp

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** CFO Cruickshank-Borges, Deputy Municipal Clerk Moore

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**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Ms. Borges discussed recent changes to the 2005 budget. Committee Member Iorio commented on the need to keep tax increases at a minimum, and he reviewed the efforts of the Finance Committee in its examination of budget items. He stated that he did not support a nine-cent municipal tax increase.

Ms. Borges reviewed a handout "2005 Budget Update" item by item that included Legal, Engineering, contractual police services, use of surplus, pending tax appeal, interlocal agreements, Recreation Department figures, surplus equipment, utilities, and rollback taxes.

Ms. Borges presented a proposal to outsource the preparation of minutes from recorded Township Committee and Planning Board meetings. It was the consensus of the Committee for the Chief Financial Officer to pursue outsourcing the minutes as discussed.

Ms. Borges reported that there would be no rate increase in the Sewer and Water Utilities. A brief discussion was held with respect to capital budget items.

Public Works Assistant Director Silvestrov explained the township's 10-year road program. The Committee asked Mr. Silvestrov to reduce expenditures to the extent possible. Further suggestions for reductions to the budget presented by Ms. Borges were discussed by the Committee that included potential employee reduction measures.

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

Hopewell Township Police Chief Michael Chipowsky and Captain George Meyer presented a handout outlining a 10-year history of Police Department activity and manpower. Chief Chipowsky noted that while activity and calls to the police have increased, manpower has remained stable since 2001. He urged the Committee to consider budget reduction alternatives to laying off police officers.

Captain Meyer discussed the impact a reduction in the number of police officers would have on response times and traffic control.

Mr. Silvestrov commented on the impact in services and morale resulting from a reduction in Public Works Department personnel, and he noted the additional miles of roadway for which the township has become responsible in the past few years.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION.** Read into the record.

Mayor Kemp stated that the meeting would not reconvene following the Executive Session.

Motion by Sandahl, seconded by Niederer to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Township Committee to discuss legal matters; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the Township Committee to conduct a meeting from which the public is excluded in order to discuss such matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the time when and circumstances under which discussion conducted in executive session may be disclosed to the public is when appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 9th day of February 2005, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township Committee shall forthwith conduct an executive session to discuss the above.

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At 9:25 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 10:10 p.m., Motion by Sandahl, seconded by Sandom to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

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ANNE B. MOORE  
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK