

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS**

Monday, January 10, 2022 – 5:32 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor Peters-Manning 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, The Times, the Trentonian and the Hopewell Express (the official newspapers) on January 7, 2022, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: David Chait, Kevin Kuchinski, Uma Purandare, Michael Ruger, Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning,

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/Public Works Director George Snyder, Municipal Clerk Laurie Gompf, CFO Julie Troutman, Police Director Karmazin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Mayor Peters-Manning led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee Member Kuchinski provided an overview of the 2022 budget process by highlighting the following:

- The goal is to deliver services that the residents need at the lowest possible cost.
- The process will begin by exploring each department's Capital needs for 2022.
- One of the principal objectives is to limit each year's Capital expenditures in order to alleviate more Capital debt than the Township pays off.
- Another principal is to fund those items which have a useful life of five years or over, however, a useful life of closer to ten years is preferable.
- The previous year's Capital budget is reviewed to identify potential unspent monies which then are redirected to this year's Capital needs versus borrowing additional monies.
- The Capital budget is reviewed and approved before the adoption of the full budget because it accelerates the roads program and saves taxpayers' money by bidding early, when contractors are less busy.
- Provided an update of Capital Budget meetings held thus far and provided an outline of future budget meetings.

Mr. Snyder presented the priority list for the Department of Public Works which included:

- Urgent and Critical items needed:
 - Jet-Vac Truck for Public Works
 - Hook Lift Truck with Plow for Public Works
 - Salt Barn payment installation for Buildings and Grounds
 - Asset Evaluation for the Water Department
- Critical items included:
 - Parks and Recreation Truck for Public Works
 - Pick-up Truck and Plow for Public Works
 - Heat Pumps/HVAC for Buildings and Grounds
 - Brandon Farms door replacement for the Sewer Department
- Critical but not urgent items included:
 - Brush Cutter for Public Works

- Lights in the Court for Buildings and Grounds
- Not Critical or Urgent items included:
 - Hybrid SUV for Public Works
 - Compact Loader for Public Works
 - Heavy Duty Trailer for Public Works
 - Light Towers for Public Works
 - Controlled access to Police Department for Buildings and Grounds
 - Controlled access to Administration for Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Snyder then reviewed the priority list for the Administration Capital Budget which included:

- Urgent and Critical IT
 - Desktop and Laptops
- Critical IT
 - Network Switches (Administration)
 - Server Replacements

Committee Members discussed placing the desktop and laptops into the regular operating budget as the useful lives of these items were not long; using cloud-based servers; and leasing computer equipment and cars.

Mr. Karmazin presented the prioritized 2022 Capital Budget for the Police Department which included:

- Department Priorities
 - Dispatch Systems Consoles – Comms Stations – State of NJ Mandated NEXGEN 9-1-1 Requirement
 - Vehicle Procurement for departmental mobility.
 - Weapons Procurement – Life Cycle Replacement – Downsizing the size of weapons
- Capital Project Request Summary
 - Upgrade dispatch communications stations
 - Replace 3 All-wheel drive Hybrid patrol vehicles
 - Replace 36 service pistols
 - Replace 3 mobile data terminals
 - Replace 10 portable radios
 - Replace 5 mobile radios
 - Replace 9 desktop computers
 - Replace 2 radar units in patrol vehicles
 - Replace the station intercom system
 - Replace Alcotest breath test machine
- Chronicled Capital Cost “Appropriation” Projection – 2018 to 2022
- 6-Year Capital Plan projection for 2022 to 2027
 - Replacement of vehicles over a 6-year timeframe.
 - Replacement of Body Worn Cameras, MDT’s Radars, Portable Radios, Mobile Radios, 9-1-1 terminals, Dispatch System Consoles, Dispatch Comms Stations, Station/Cell/Door Intercom System, Computers (station desktops), Computer Servers, Alcotest, and Hand Guns.
- Description of Specific Operational Requirements
 - The Dispatch Room now requires refurbishment to meet technical standards – 10-year life expectancy.
 - Recently mandated guidelines by the NJ Office of Information Technology now requires the replacement of the current Enhanced 9-1-1 to a state-of-the-art NEXGEN 9-1-1 by 2023 (estimated execution between 2022-2023).
 - Replace current dispatch system consoles and comms stations to meet required NJ Office of Information Technology guidelines.
 - Recommend the appropriation of funding to execute refurbishment in 2022 as a complete dispatch project.
 - Proposing 4 vehicles to be purchased in 2022 with 2 front line patrol and 2 administrative vehicles.
 - With 2 vehicles totaled in 2021, the department is at a disadvantage since they were the newest vehicles in the fleet.
 - The appropriation of funding to execute vehicle procurement in 2022 will allow the department to maintain operational patrol requirements.

- Current duty weapons (Glock Model 23 in .40 caliber) need replacements as current weapons are approximately 10 years old. It was suggested that the replacement be Walther PDP 9mm in order to save money on the cost of the weapon and ammunition.

Committee Members extolled the virtues of hybrid vehicles; questioned the replacement of long guns; the amount of ammunition used in training; the cost of the current ammunition versus the cost of a lower caliber ammunition; and suggested switching old police vehicles to Public Works.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Harvey Lester, a resident of Continental Lane, questioned the water department and the urgent/critical categorization of an asset evaluation; made certain comments regarding Washington Crossing Estate's wastewater treatment; and requested that the Committee include the Utility Working Group of Washington Crossing Estates in the asset evaluation process.

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, agreed with Mr. Lester's comments; questioned if use of force was taken into consideration when suggesting moving from one caliber of gun to a lesser caliber of gun; suggested that costs surrounding the new training of officers on a new weapon would cost more than the savings of purchasing cheaper ammunition; and questioned where appropriate force fits into those considerations.

The detailed public comment may be viewed at www.hopewelltp.org in the video library.

At 6:32 p.m., motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

The detailed public meeting may be viewed at www.hopewelltp.org in the video library.

LAURIE E. GOMPF
MUNICIPAL CLERK