

ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Special Budget Meeting
MINUTES
April 4, 2018

This meeting was advertised in The Express Times notice posted in the Alexandria Township Municipal Offices and the Alexandria Township Website (www.alexandrianj.gov) as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting Called to order at 6:01 PM.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Garay, Committeeman Pfefferle, Committeeman Kiernan, CFO Steinberg

ABSENT: None

BUDGET WORK SESSION # 4:

CFO Steinberg noted that not enough surplus was brought in for the 2017 year leaving the Township \$100,000.00 short of replenishment. Half of the regeneration of surplus was from taxes. An increase of one cent equates to \$72,000.00 which costs the average homeowner \$40.00 a year in increased taxes.

The Township will need to raise taxes by 1 ½ cent to break even for 2017. This increase will cover contractual raises, debt service, and insurance increases.

CFO Steinberg noted that there is a balance of \$465,000.00 of monies from the Capital Improvement Fund. A fully funded ordinance will be needed to spend this surplus.

The Township Committee advised DPW Foreman Griffith to do an inventory of inlets and their condition. The DPW can begin making inlet repairs and money for the repairs can come out of the DPW O/E.

The Pepe Property needs to have asbestos abatement done before it can be demolished. The Park/Rec Commission would like to have the DPW demolish various buildings that are an attractive nuisance throughout the park.

Twp. Engineer Decker will be asked to join the next Township budget meeting to discuss roads and cost saving ideas.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

The Township Committee will need to determine if they will increase contributions to the area volunteer fire companies or ask for inventory/needs they may have to see if the Township can purchase these items for them.

Mayor Garay and Comm. Kiernan would like to move forward with a 1 ½ cent increase for 2017. Comm. Pfefferle indicated that no long term plan is available and that the Township is still going year to year for budgeting needs. Comm. Pfefferle would like to determine if one cent can be taken from the four cents currently being taken out of taxes that go to Farmland Preservation as many farms have been preserved and there are not a lot of farms left to preserve. Former CFO Rees has indicated that the Township cannot do that but the Township Auditor says you can. Comm. Pfefferle would like a definitive answer if this can be an option.

The Township Committee agreed to move forward with the following DPW improvements for 2018:

- 1.) Park Projects-Labor is supplied by the DPW, Park/Rec to supply materials
Remove ash trees at the park, replace the walking bridge, correct one of the basketball posts
- 2.) DPW Facility Projects- \$7,200.00
New roof for the fuel depot, move security fence using existing chain link fence/gate, paint old building, install new gutters and replace and damaged/rotten wood
- 3.) Alexandria Drive, Manor Way, Oak Lane-Inlets Only/No Paving
- 4.) Farmhouse Road/Melita Road-Inlets Only/No Paving
- 5.) Oil/Chip \$125,000.00
- 6.) Tree Removal \$10,000.00
- 7.) Line Striping \$7,500.00 (1/2 the town, approx. 30 miles)

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to go into Executive Session. **(Time 7:36 PM.)**

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Open Public Meetings Act RESOLUTION- Executive Session

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2:4-12, Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Alexandria, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters.
 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - _____ A confidential or excluded matter under Federal or State Law or Court Rule.
 - _____ A matter involving information that may impair the Township’s rights to receive funds from the United States Government.
 - _____ A matter constituting an unwarranted invasion of an individual’s privacy rights.
 - _____ Collective Bargaining Agreement or negotiation of the Agreement.
 - _____ Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds which it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion were disclosed.

 - _____ Tactics and techniques to protect the safety and property of the public, including investigations of violations or potential violations of the law.
 - _____ Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may become a party.
 - _____ Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege.
 - X Personnel matters involving a specific employee or officer of the Township.
Township Committee Meetings
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 - _____ Deliberations of the Township occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit.
 3. It is anticipated at this time that the above matter will be made public: at the conclusion of the litigation and at such time as attorney client confidentiality is no longer needed to protect confidentiality and litigation strategy.
 4. The executive session minutes will be placed on file in the township clerk’s office, and will be available to the public as provided for by New Jersey law.
 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
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Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to return to Public Session (7:48 PM).

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to appoint Bryan Courter as the Finance Assistant for \$22.50 an hour not to exceed 20 hours week. The start date of hire will be June 1st.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The Township Committee reviewed solar options for the flag pole provided by DPW Foreman Griffith. The Township Committee will move forward with a solar option for the flag pole. The solar option will cost approximately \$379.00 and provide 12 hours of illumination on the flag during the night.

The following matters were discussed in Executive Session:

- Four interviews were conducted for the position of Finance Assistant. The Township would like to offer the position to Bryan Courter for \$22.50 an hour/ not to exceed 20 hours a week. The start date will be June 1st so that Mr. Courter can focus on college graduation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to adjourn.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted:
Michele Bobrowski, RMC
Township Clerk**

I hereby certify that I have reviewed these Minutes of the Township Committee Meeting of April 4, 2018 and certify that said Minutes were approved unanimously by the Township Committee on the 17th day of April 2018.

Michelle Garay, Mayor

Dated: _____