

**REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**April 24, 2012
DELRAN, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Sunshine Statement: Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the sunshine law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on December 23, 2011 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow were present. Mr. Catrambone was absent.

ALSO, PRESENT: Mr. Paris, Mayor, Mr. Long, Solicitor, Mr. Hatcher, Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion seconded by Ms. Pomeranz to approve the minutes for March 7, 2012, March 21, 2012 and March 27, 2012.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4

Nays: None

Motion Approved

Tom Davis, Tax Assessor, discussed the reassessment program. Mr. Davis stated that 2005 we did an in house reassessment. Since the change in the market in 2011, we took a look at the assessment. We were able to do this in house and very quickly. Due to the reassessment, homeowners should see a slight reduction in their 2012 assessment. By keeping the assessments within line with the market it helps protect the Township against appeals.

2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

**TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN
RESOLUTION 2012-44**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Township of Delran has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2012 budget year, so

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by (not less than a majority of the full membership) the Township Council of the Township of Delran that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a and b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amount have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:

- a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
- b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
- c. Cash deficit of preceding year
- d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
- e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
- f. Any inclusions of amount required for school purposes

2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP: law).

3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:

- a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and corrected stated:
- b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
- c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5, The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Ms. Pomeranz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to adopt the Resolution 2012-44.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Approved

**TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN
RESOLUTION 2012-45**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, as amended by Chapter 259, P.L. 1995 provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the budget has been made available for public inspection in a free library, if any located within our municipality and a county library. If there is no county library located within the municipality, then it must be provided to any county library in the county wherein the municipality is located. Further, the public officer delegated the responsibility for delivery of the copies to said libraries has completed a certification forwarded to the governing body that such deliveries were made and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requesting them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget shall be read by title only.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pomeranz to adopt the Resolution 2012-45.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

PUBLIC HEARING 2012 BUDGET

Mr. Morrow read the following statement from Mr. Catrambone since he was not able to attend tonight's meeting:

My apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting due to an unplanned and last minute business trip to Arizona.

First, I would like to thank the Mayor, the department heads and our administrator, Jeff Hatcher, for their hard work in preparing the 2012 budget and the budgets for the last four years.

The reduction in this year's spending is possible due a plan that started with the 2009 budget. For four years, the Mayor's new approach has been to prepare the budget by eliminating wasteful spending and start each year with reductions from the prior year's budget. Year after year, Mayor and Council have examined every line item and made serious and sometimes unpopular decisions to cut spending. But those decisions have allowed this Council to provide a modest tax reduction for the 2012 budget.

Additionally, by working with county, state and federal officials, this council has increased the quantity and quality of the road program. Delran has been awarded a tremendous amount of grant money and the township workers have maintained a level of services recognized countywide. Council has also not laid off a single employee in the worst economy since the Great Depression.

We have worked very hard to present a budget that delivers a \$54,000 reduction in spending, is a MILLION dollars UNDER the spending cap and, even with a re-assessment to protect the citizens from potential tax appeal losses, has reduced the municipal tax by approximately \$40 for the average household.

While a \$40 tax reduction won't change anyone's lifestyle, it shows that smart planning and the willingness to make tough decisions is paying off for the residents of Delran. Thank you for entrusting us to serve you and giving us the opportunity to achieve our goal of both stabilizing taxes and, this year, reducing Delran Township municipal taxes.

Mrs. Kolodi made a motion to open the meeting to the public for comments, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Pfeffer, 43 Chester Avenue, stated that in the minutes from February 22, 2012, Mr. Hatcher stated that the proposed budget for 2012 was \$15,658,000, a reduction of \$27,000 over the 2011 budget. The surplus at the end of 2011 was \$5,200,000. In the 2012 proposed budget, the surplus is list at \$2,500,000. He asked which surplus number is correct.

Mr. Hatcher stated that total surplus at the end of 2011 was approximately \$5,200,000. We are utilizing \$2,700,000 to balance the budget.

Mr. Pfeffer asked what the money goes towards.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it is revenue used for tax relief.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that on February 22nd, Mr. Hatcher stated that there was a \$27,000 reduction over last year's budget.

Mr. Hatcher stated that, at that time there was a \$27,000 reduction, what we ended up with was a \$54,000 reduction over last year's budget.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that we need to stop robbing the surplus.

Mr. Morrow stated that we are not robbing the surplus.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that according to the budget, there are 64 employees, excluding the Sewer Department. The total budget for Salary and Wages, for se employees, is \$5,702,300. That averages out to a median salary of \$89,000 per employee. He asked if Council feels that that is a fair salary.

Mr. Hatcher explained that the number of employees listed in the budget document does not count part-time employees. They would be included in the total amount budgeted for salaries.

Mr. Pfeffer stated he asked Council before if were compensated and he was told that they were not. In the budget, it includes salaries for Mayor and Council.

Mr. Morrow stated that they do receive a salary.

Mr. Pfeffer asked what the \$8,000 is being used for in public relations budget.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it is for the update to the Township website.

Mr. Pfeffer asked what employee is being paid out of the Department of Health line item for \$47,430.00.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it is one employee in the Clerk's Office that issues licenses and permits.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that Council budgeted \$175,000 in gasoline for 2011 and expended \$83,517. In 2012, they are budgeting \$175,000. He asked why we budgeted \$175,000, when he had \$91,482, left over last year.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we have a shared service with Riverside for the purchase of gasoline. They have not billed the Township for half of the gasoline purchased in 2011. We anticipate that the budget needed will be \$175,000.

Mr. McCabe, Faunce Street, asked for an explanation of the reserve for uncollected taxes for \$2,200,000.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the Township has the responsibility to collect the funds for the County, School District, Fire District and the Township. If you take all those funds together we collect approximately \$48,000,000. We need a line item that provides for individuals that will not pay their taxes in the course of the year. That is the number that we anticipate will not be collected. The funds are then collected through a tax sale.

Mr. McCabe asked for an explanation on the \$717,000 provided in the budget for compensation for absences liability.

Mr. Hatcher stated those funds are provided for sick time pay out upon retirement. The amount depends upon the contract.

Mr. McCabe asked if Council is going to look at cutting this type of thing out of the contracts. He stated that he also feels employees should pay more towards health care. He asked if Council has any plan for tax relief for seniors. Mr. McCabe asked why the Police Salary and Wage line item has increased from 1.3 million to 3.5 million in the budget.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he believes the 1.3 million dollars was in the temporary budget, which only covers the first three months of the year.

Mr. McCabe asked how many police officers we have in the Township.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we have thirty officers.

Mr. McCabe asked that if he divided the 3.5 million by thirty he could come up with an average salary.

Mr. Hatcher stated that there are also four clerical employees in that department and the line item also includes overtime costs.

Mr. McCabe stated that it seems like a large number and we also cover the cost of the uniform and weapons.

Joe LaMonica, 16 Navy Drive, thanked Council for the good job they are doing with the surplus and the budget. He reads the paper and many other towns are having trouble. He just wanted to make a positive comment since all the comments are negative.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to the close the public hearing on the 2012 Municipal Budget, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

ADOPTION OF CY 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – RESOLUTION 2012-46
RESOLUTION 2012-46 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2012 CY BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Delran, County of Burlington that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purpose stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

a) \$10,500,000 (Item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and
d) \$325,000.00 Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Trust
Fund Levy

1.	General Revenues	
	Surplus Anticipated	2,700,000.00
	Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	2,066,000.00
	Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	365,000.00
2.	Amount to be raised by taxation for municipal Puposes (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	10,500,000.00
	Total Revenues	15,631,000.00

Mrs. Kolodi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to adopt Resolution 2012-46 adopting the 2012 Municipal Budget.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2012-47 to affirm the Township Delran's Civil Rights policy with respect to all Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees,

Volunteers, Independent Contractors and members of the public that come into contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers

Resolution 2012-48 Releasing Zoning Board Escrows

Resolution 2012-49 Authorizing Sale of Surplus Equipment

Resolution 2012-50 Authorizing Advertisement for Public Action

Resolution 2012-51 Authorizing the Township to join the NJ Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting

Resolution 2012-52 Authorizing Sewer Adjustments for various properties

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to adopt the resolutions.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

MOTIONS

Ms. Pomeranz made a motion to authorize the advertisement of bids for the Westover Drive Drainage Improvement Project, Improvements to the intersection at Conrow and Hartford Road and the Myers Tract Recreational Complex – Phase I Project. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

Mr. Schwartz made a motion authorizing the payment of bills including all purchases made under the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

Mrs. Kolodi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to accept the report of the Tax Collector, CFO and the Township Clerk.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

Mr. Schwartz made a motion granting the mercantile licenses listed below. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi.

1. Prego, 5014 Route 130 North
2. Maroi's Deli, 1107 Fairview Street
3. Cosmo Professional Beauty Supply, 4037 Route 130 South
4. G Auto Sales, 150-1 Carriage Lane
5. WZS Auto Sales, 207 A-9 Carriage Lane

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 1

Motion Approved

REPORTS

Mr. Hatcher – Mr. Hatcher reported that he wanted to explain Resolution 2012-47 on civil rights. Every two years we are required to review personnel policies and have them approved by the BCJIF and MEL. There are a number of requirements that need to be met and one is adopting this resolution. There is also training that is required. If we meet the requirements, we are offered a lower deductible and higher insurance coverage.

Mr. Hatcher stated that in regards to Resolution 2012-51, by joining this meeting we will hopefully benefit from a reduction in the cost of gas and electric. The program is set up similar to the BCJIF, where municipalities get together for the purchase of gas and electric. So far they have been successful saving municipalities 10% of our current costs.

Mr. Long – No report.

Mr. Bauer – Mr. Bauer, Fire Commissioner reported on the fire at the VFW on Easter Sunday. They had a crew in the Chester Avenue station and were able to respond quickly. There was extensive damage to the structure.

Ms. Pomeranz – Ms. Pomeranz stated that she was at the affair where Josh Stellwag was honored as Fireman of the Year by the VFW. He is a young man with five generations of firemen in his family. It made her proud to be from Delran.

In regards to the budget, she has learned since being on Council, so much of the budget is out of our control. Many contracts have been in place for four years. When the economy went down, we were not able to change that. We are in the process of re-negotiating the contracts this year. Employees are now required to pay towards their health care and that amount will increase over the next few years.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that the Delran Business Association is offering two scholarships. She has applications available tonight if anyone would like one. The deadline is May 1st.

Mr. Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz complimented the Mayor on the 2012 budget. Many neighboring communities are facing serious issues. The Mayor put a plan in place several years ago, that has helped keep this budget level.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that the Department Heads also do a great job and deserve some credit in helping reduce this budget.

Mrs. Kolodi – Mrs. Kolodi stated that working on the budget for the second year she has learned a lot. Everyone put in a lot of effort. She feels very confident and proud of the job everyone did on this budget.

Mr. Morrow – Mr. Morrow stated that four years ago we set out to stabilize taxes and continue with the services. We continue to move forward with our road program and continue to receive grants for those repairs. We are looking to move forward with a solar project for the municipal building. It has been a joint effort by everyone. Many towns are trying to model after our town. This year we are going to finish Swedes Run Drive and a portion of Tenby Chase Drive. We will also be reconstructing Roland Street. He is very proud of what we have done.

Mr. Paris – Mr. Paris stated that the water company finished the repairs on Waterford Drive. He thanked Mr. Hatcher and Mr. DeSanto for working with them on the project. They went far beyond the requirements to repair the road.

Mr. Paris stated that the water company will be painting the water tower and they will be placing Delran and the date established on one side of the tower.

Mr. Paris stated that one of the major issues he had before being on Council was the taxes. When he got involved, his main goal was to try and stabilize taxes. The first two years, he worked hard but was not able to accomplish much. After he became Mayor, he put a plan into place to come up with a three year cost average for each department and used that as a base. We use that number in the budget, for each department, and the goal was to try not to use the entire budget. Each year after that, we were able to lower the budget. Each department head worked very hard to keep spending under control. Council also worked very hard to control spending and get the taxes where they are today.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to open the meeting to the public for any questions. All were in favor, the motion was approved.

Paul Lewis, 20 Purdue Drive, thanked Council for their work on the budget. He also addressed two concerns. First, the intersection of Hartford and Conrow Road and the second concern is an abandoned property next door to him at 24 Purdue Drive. The property had a devastating fire two years ago and has since been abandoned. He asked if there is any action that can be taken.

Mayor Paris stated that we will look into the property.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that Hartford and Conrow project will take place when school is out.

Richard Grockenberger, 84 Alden Avenue, thanked Council for their work on the budget.

Mr. Grockenberger asked if there is any update on the flooding concerns by the river.

Mr. Morrow stated that we have applied for a grant and are still waiting to hear. We are hopeful to receive a grant to help build up the banks.

Mr. Grockenberger asked if the speed limit on River Road can be lowered to thirty miles per hours.

Mr. Paris stated that they will look into this issue.

Bill Pfeffer, 43 Chester Avenue, stated that since the Open Space Fund in 2005 a total of \$2,600,000 should have been collected. Currently, we have an outstanding debt in that fund of \$4,602,000. We have way outspent what we have collected and we need to stop. If we do not have the money, we should not purchase property. We should not be bonding the money. He asked how we will fund the Myers Tract development.

Mr. Hatcher stated that since the fund was instituted, Council agreed that the funds would be leveraged, with grants to make the most use of the funds. We would use the fund to pay the debt service. We have received \$2,500,000 in grants from Green Acres and the County that will go back to the Open Space Fund. He does not have the report with him tonight, but he has given Council a report on where the fund stands. The fund is not over extended.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that the residents that voted for the fund, believed the money would be spent for Open Space not for bonds.

Mr. Hatcher stated that at the time that the Open Space referendum went out to the voters, Council expressed to the residents that the money collected would be used to pay debt service.

Mr. Pfeffer stated that he never expected the funds to be used in that way. He recommended that Council read the Open Space Referendum. The interpretive statement says that the monies collected can not be used on administrative cost, supplies or personnel but the ballot states that you can.

Mr. Pfeffer handed out information from a case where the Council meeting minutes were required to be made available within two weeks. He asked that Council review the information and comply with the requirements.

Ron Taylor, Notre Dame Drive, discussed the issue of parking on Notre Dame Drive that has become an issue again over the last several weeks. Speeding

has become a big issue on the street. The traffic ordinance states certain hours where parking is prohibited, but it is not being enforced. He asked that Council review the ordinance and place sign in the area to allow the police to enforce the no parking.

Mr. Morrow stated that the Myers Tract should help the congestion on those fields.

Mr. Taylor stated that there are definitely safety concerns that need to be looked at and we really need to look into speed humps on that street.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted,

Jamey Eggers
Municipal Clerk