

# FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 20, 2017

At 7:15 p.m. the Township Committee met in Room 114 of the municipal building. Mayor Preston read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, (c. 231 P.L. 1975), this meeting was announced on March 3, 2017 by: 1.) posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, 2.) by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and 3.) by filing such notice with the Township Clerk”

In Attendance: Committeeman Ammiano, Committeeman Cook,  
Committeeman Salkin and Mayor Preston.

Absent: Committeewoman McMorrow

Also in attendance: Mr. Valesi, Township Administrator; Mr. Munoz, Esq., Township Attorney; Ms. Patino, Deputy Clerk and Ms. Warner, Township Clerk.

Mr. Munoz read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 of the Open Public meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from meetings of public bodies in certain circumstances which are set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b); and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Freehold is of the opinion that such circumstances currently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Freehold as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter specified matters.

2. The nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

1. ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

1A. Budget Review – Process for Fire District #1

3. It is anticipated at this time the above-stated subject matter will be made public in approximately thirty (30) days or at such time as any litigation discussed is resolved.

The foregoing resolution was moved by Mr. Ammiano and seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

The Committee went into Executive Session.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Ms. Warner handed out revised budget resolution and an attachment to R-17-76.

At 8:00 pm the Regular Meeting began.

Mayor Preston re-read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, (c.231 P.L. 1975), this meeting was announced on March 3, 2017: by 1.) posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, 2.) by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and 3.) by filing such notice with the Township Clerk”

Pledge of Allegiance

In Attendance: Committeeman Ammiano, Committeeman Cook, Committeeman Salkin and Mayor Preston.

Absent: Committeewoman McMorrow

Also in attendance: Mr. Valesi, Township Administrator; Mr. Munoz, Esq., Township Attorney; Ms. Patino and Ms. Warner, Township Clerk.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

None

**REPORTS**

Ms. Warner read the Report of the Tax Collector for the Month of February 2017:

Net Receipts:	General Fund \$	21,455,047.80
	Water Account \$	199,258.46
	Sewer Account \$	385,171.11

Division of ABC Social Affair Permit – Silvermead Community Club – April 15, 2017

Ms. Warner reported that the Social Affair Permit was in order and was approved by the Chief of Police.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Proclamation – “Alcohol Awareness Month” – April, 2017

Mayor Preston read the proclamation and presented it to Jeff Friedman, Co-Chair of the Municipal Alliance. Mr. Friedman thanked the Township Committee and stated the Alliance is having their fundraiser golf outing in June. All proceeds go to benefit the programs they do in the schools.

Proclamation – “Autism Awareness Month” – April, 2017

Mayor Preston read the proclamation and presented it to Kerry Vendittoli, Co-President of PACE and other members and their children. Ms. Vendittoli thanked the Committee and said they were honored by the proclamation.

Proclamation – “Child Abuse Prevention Month” – April, 2017

Mayor Preston read the proclamation and presented it to Co-Presidents Patricia Erney and Barbara Nemeth and other members of the Freehold Township Women’s Club. Ms. Erney thanked the Committee for letting them plant pinwheels at the Municipal Building.

There was a 5 minutes recess.

**OLD BUSINESS**

O-17-4 – Ordinance Amending Chapter XI (Traffic), Section 11-11.1 (No Left Turns), Schedule XA (No Left Turns) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey

Mayor Preston explained that since this ordinance was originally scheduled for public hearing on March 21, 2017 and since that meeting was rescheduled to tonight, March 20, 2017, the Committee will be tabling the public hearing on this ordinance to be sure to give the residents a chance to speak.

Mr. Ammiano moved to table Ordinance O-17-4 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of April 4, 2017, seconded by Mr. Salkin.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

O-17-5 – Calendar Year 2017 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establishing a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mr. Ammiano moved Ordinance O-17-5 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of April 25, 2017, seconded by Mr. Salkin.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None    ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow    ABSTAIN: None

R-17-69 – Resolution – Introduction of 2017 Municipal Budget

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-17-69, the Introduction of the 2017 Municipal Budget and moved it for adoption and stated the public hearing will be at the Township Committee meeting of April 25, 2017, seconded by Mr. Salkin.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None    ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow    ABSTAIN: None

Public Hearing – Freehold Township Fire District No. 1 Budget

Mayor Preston first congratulated Mr. Toutouchi and Mr. Story on their election to the Board of Fire Commissioners for District 1. He then thanked Mr. Bob Buscaglia for the outstanding job he has done as a past Fire Commissioner and for all his years of service to the town. He said we are all very grateful.

Mayor Preston then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions on the defeated budget for Fire District No. 1.

There being none, Mr. Salkin moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None    ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow    ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Preston opened it to the Township Committee to discuss the Fire District No. 1 defeated budget.

Mr. Salkin stated this is not adversarial nor is it punitive, just a difference in philosophy. One of the items we looked at is how we handle surplus differently in how to build capital projects. He explained it is felt when buying new fire trucks, they should be bonded for instead of paying cash. You pay them off over the 10 years at a low interest rate and it is a benefit to the tax payers who live here for the 10 years.

Mayor Preston said the line item for \$99,000 for salary and fringe benefits it is recommended be removed. He understands it is hard getting volunteers, it has been a problem for about the last 15 years for fire districts and the first aid. In the future we may have to take a hard look at whether we have to go to full time paid fire fighters, but right now we feel it should be cut from the budget. A couple other items that need to be adjusted are a reduction in Professional fees of about \$4,500; Utilities/Cell Phones adjusted to the 2016 budget level; same with computer expenses. Education/Training will be lowered to 4 people instead of 8 that can attend the Nashville training. The Monmouth County proposed radio program is not ready yet and will probably not be ready for another year after speaking with the County. We should reduce this by \$21,000. The total budget reduction would be -\$239,500. Which is a \$62,000 reduction in surplus and \$115,000 reduction in expenses.

Mr. Salkin said they discussed among themselves that it would be a good idea to put a panel together from Freehold Borough fire district and the two Freehold Township fire districts to work on interlocal agreements and see where there can be savings.

Mayor Preston then asked Mr. Munoz for a recap of the items discussed in a resolution form.

Mr. Munoz read a recap of figures:

Tax levy (original) - \$1,171,000

Reduction - \$239,500

Tax levy (new) - \$896,500

Specific line items –

Revenues - +\$80,000 - New figure - \$115,000

Appropriations - -(\$4,500) – New figure - \$150,700

Total cost of Operations & Maintenance – (\$155,000) - New figure \$760,800

Total reductions - -(\$239,500)

\$4,500 reduction in professional fees

\$99,000 reduction from salaries and fringe benefits

\$5,000 reduction from Utilities/mobile phones

\$21,000 reduction from other non-bondable

\$15,000 reduction from education/training by sending only 4 members rather than 8 members

\$80,000 addition to from fund balance to revenue but leave in surplus.

Mr. Valesi stated the original tax levy should read \$1,136,000, not \$1,171,000.

R-17-70 – Resolution Determining Amount Necessary to be Appropriated in the Freehold Township Fire District No. 1 Budget as Required by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.5b and N.J.A.C. 5:31-2.4(h)

Mr. Munoz read R-17-70 incorporating all the details and figures that was decided to be cut from the Fire District No, 1 defeated budget.

Mr. Cook moved Resolution R-17-70 for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None      ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow      ABSTAIN: None

R-17-71 – Resolution Providing for Emergency Temporary Appropriations Pending State Approval for 2017 Municipal Budget

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-17-71 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None      ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow      ABSTAIN: None

R-17-72 - Resolution Authorizing an Affordability Assistance Loan Repayment Agreement with the Buyer of an Affordable Housing Unit at 35 Balmoral Court, Unit 3

Mr. Salkin read Resolution R-17-72 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

R-17-73 – Resolution Authorizing In Rem Foreclosure

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-17-73 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

R-17-74 - Resolution Authorizing Change Order Number 1, Contract 15-17, Interior Renovations Freehold Township Municipal Building and Declaring Acceptance of Contract

Mr. Salkin read Resolution R-17-74 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

R-17-75 - Resolution Approving Consolidated Bills List

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-17-75, the Consolidated Bills List in the amount of \$4,936,977.84 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow ABSTAIN: None

### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

The “Consent Agenda” section of the Meeting Agenda shall be preceded by an explanatory note substantially set forth as follows:

Matters listed under the items of “Consent Agenda” are required to conduct the day to day operations of the Township, and will be enacted by one (1) motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired of any item, that item will be considered separately.”

R-17-76 – Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with  
CentraState Fitness & Wellness Center

R-17-77 – Resolution Amending Resolution R-17-48 Adopted on 2/21/17  
Authorizing Award of Contract for the Rehabilitation of Well No. 15

Mr. Salkin read the Consent Resolutions and moved them for adoption,  
seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

NAYS: None    ABSENT: Mrs. McMorrow    ABSTAIN: None

There being no further business, Mayor Preston asked for any comments  
or questions from the public.

JJ Mistretta, 506-8 Harding Road, asked if the Fire budgets are audited.

Mayor Preston answered that they are audited every year. There was not  
a problem with their audit.

Mr. Valesi said their budgets and audits are on the Fire District #1  
website.

Ms. Mistretta stated she felt there should be a shared service with  
District 1 and District 2 working together. She understands the Committee  
suggested a consortium to look at where we can consolidate certain expenses,  
but she said NJ has the highest taxes and we have to start consolidating. She  
felt there should be a consolidation of Fire Districts, Police, County and schools  
and School Boards. She also felt the Fire District budgets should be all under  
the Township budget.

Mayor Preston said we will be looking at ways we can save them on  
expenses, such as us working on the Chief's car, supplies, etc. We can't work  
on the fire trucks as that is not in our expertise.

Mr. Salkin stated these fire fighters are all volunteers.

David Velez, 29 Sawbuck Rd., felt his assessment is too high for his  
home. He paid \$360,000 and the assessment says it is worth \$582,000. Every  
year he does his due diligence and every year he goes through this.

Mr. Valesi stated he has discussed the tax assessment process with Mr.  
Velez. He can appeal the assessment to the County if he disagrees.

Mr. Velez complained of a problem with Sam's Club sump station kicks  
on the whole street gets backed up. It happened 4 times last year and 2 weeks  
ago there was raw sewage coming up in the street. He said the Water  
Department stated they will look at pumping it every two weeks.

Mr. Valesi said he heard there was a blockage and we responded an  
unclogged it. But when something is a habitual problem, he will look into it  
tomorrow morning. He was not aware it was an ongoing issue and there was  
raw sewage in the street.

Mr. Franklin, 119 Lancaster Rd. asked for an explanation on Ordinance O-17-5, the CAP ordinance and R-1-71, the Emergency Temporary Budget resolution.

Mr. Valesi said every year we pass this ordinance so we can exceed the CAP bank, however, we do not actually go above the levy, and we will be below the levy. Regarding the Emergency Temporary Budget resolution, in January we set a temporary budget amount that we can work off of until our budget is adopted. We have to pass a resolution if we are going to need more money for a particular line item before the budget is adopted.

There being no further questions, Mayor Preston closed the public portion and asked for comments from the dais.

Mr. Cook complimented the DPW/Recreation crews that worked on the snow storm on Tuesday. The commuter lots were immaculate. Kudos also to Catherine Campbell and Pete Valesi on the budget process.

Mr. Salkin echoed Mr. Cook's comments. He said this budget was easier because of all the pain of handling problems years before and I think it was fiscally the right thing to do. He thanked all the volunteers from Fire District #1 for all the time you put in for the town. It is not easy for us to edit your budget. You are all heroes to us and this was not adversarial.

Mr. Ammiano thanked Ms. Campbell and Mr. Valesi for an outstanding job in preparing the budget for this year. This being Alcohol Awareness month he asked everyone to keep other families in their thoughts that are affected in some way by this. He just had a neighbor who lost a family member and unfortunately it affects everyone. He said the Fire Department and the First Aid volunteers are all appreciated. He said unfortunately, since the budget was defeated by the voters, we had to act. He felt the Mayor's suggestion of setting up a committee to address these problems is a plus.

Mayor Preston said we appreciate everything the Fire Department does. He said it was with much thought and deliberation that we made these cuts without affecting the fire fighters safety or service, as well as the Committee taking into account the taxpayer's decision. These were not easy decisions. He thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

---

Teresa Warner, Township Clerk