

**MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

JANUARY 20, 2021

MINUTES

Mayor Innella called the session to order at 4:30 p.m. and indicated that adequate notice has been provided to the New Jersey Herald and The Sunday New Jersey Herald for publication in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda of meetings in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, c. 231.

FLAG SALUTE: All present were asked to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The Municipal Clerk was asked to call the roll.

Present were: Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone and Mayor Innella.
Also present were, Municipal Clerk Eileen DeFabiis, CFO Sharon Yarosz and Finance Clerk Dana Klinger.

Clerk DeFabiis noted that Mr. LeDonne would be arriving late to the meeting.

Absent: None

JOINT INTER-MUNICIPAL COURT – AGREEMENT UPDATE – SALARIES

The Township Committee members discussed an update to the current Joint Inter-Municipal Court Agreement, in which Frankford Township has given their Employees, which include the Municipal Court Employees a 3.75% increase in salaries for FY 2022. Frankford is asking for the support of the members of the Joint Inter-Municipal Court by way of Resolution approving the new updated Agreement. Mayor Innella commented that there has been a significant reduction in costs in the last year because Frankford Court has paid off their rent for the space that they use as well as the addition of Blairstown joining the Inter-Municipal Court. Mr. Krumpfer feels that with inflation being as high as it is they should certainly approve the increase for the Municipal Court Employees. Mr. Merusi also agreed that with the reduction that they have seen last year he would also be in favor of the salary increase. Mr. Zitone added that as long as the other towns agree, he is in favor of the increase. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the Agreement update to the Joint Inter-Municipal Court Employee's salaries. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Resolution 2022-019 was then issued.

2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed salary increases for the Montague Township Municipal Employees. Mayor Innella had CFO, Sharon Yarosz, come up with figures for both a 3.75% increase and a 3% increase and the difference between the two was just about \$2,000. The Committee members agreed that they are all in favor of a 3.75% increase for the year 2022.

The Committee discussed some of the numerous budget requests received from the various departments. Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger explained that the current Township website has become antiquated for the times; it does not have the look and capabilities of many of the other sites that are out there for local government. Ms. Klinger was able to secure two quotes for updating the website. After some discussion about each, the Committee decided that they would like to discuss this at a Regular Township Committee Meeting for award and approval of a contract. Mr. LeDonne arrived at 4:48 PM.

The Committee then went through each line item within the budget and discussed each including: Vital Statistics Salary and Wages and O&E; Mayor and Council Salaries; Municipal Clerk- Salary and Wages, O&E, Codification, Elections, Publications, Postage, Seminars and Meetings, Dues, Supplies, Service Contracts and Payroll.

The Committee then took a moment to welcome the representatives from the Montague Township Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Ryan Riegel and Treasurer Keith Lamberson. Mr. Lamberson commented that within 2021 the Fire Department ended up spending about \$5,000 over in Truck Repairs and about \$5,000 under in Business Expenses. The Fire Department is requesting that all line items remain the same, but to increase Truck Repairs by \$5,000 for the 2022 budget. For a total budget for the

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Fire Department of \$90,000. The Committee agreed to leave the requested budget as is for now and see how the budget pans out.

The Township Committee then continued the discussion of: Financial Administration- Salary and Wages, O&E; Audit Services; Computer Service and Office Equipment; Collection of Taxes- Salary and Wages, O&E, Grant Writer; Tax Title Liens; Assessment of Taxes- Salary and Wages and O&E; Legal Services & Costs; Engineering Services and Costs; Land Use Board- O&E and S&W; COAH; Fire Sub Code Official Salary and Wages; Code Enforcement Salary and Wages and O&E; General Liability and Workers Compensation; Group Insurance for Employees; Health Benefit Waivers; Unemployment Compensation Insurance; Constable Salary and Wages; Public Safety O&E (Sheriff's Patrol); 9-1-1 System O&E; Emergency Management and Flood Mitigation Salary and Wages and O&E; First Aid Organization Contribution; Uniform Fire Safety Act Inspections, Salary and Wages, and O&E; Fire Prevention O&E; Public Safety O&E; Streets and Roads Salary and Wages, O&E, Repairs, Uniforms, Supplies, Parts and Supplies, and Various Roads; Snow Removal Salary and Wages; Snow Removal O&E; Grit and Salt; Recycling Salary and Wages; Garbage and Trash Removal; Public Buildings and Grounds Salary and Wages and O&E; Fire Hydrant Service; Board of Health Salary and Wages; Dog Regulation O&E; Recreation & Education O&E; Senior Citizens Donation; Historical Society; Celebration O&E; Electricity; Telephone; Fuel Oil; Gasoline; Contingent; Public Employee's Retirement System; Social Security; Small Cities Grant; Clean Communities Grant; Recycling Tonnage Grant; Municipal Court O&E. Also, Capital Improvement Funds including: Improvements to Roads; Purchase of Road Equipment; Purchase of Salt Shed; Construction of Fire House; Office Equipment; Loan Repayments for Principal & Interest; and Resolution for Uncollected Taxes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Zitone motioned to open to the public. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Merusi motioned to close to the public. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

ADJOURN

Mr. Zitone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Eileen DeFabiis, RMC
Municipal Clerk