

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**March 19, 2008
DELRAN, NJ**

PRESENT: Mr. Macey, Mr. Ogozalek, Sr., Mr. Hermansky, Mr. Paris and Mr. Chinnici.

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor Stellwag, Mr. Hatcher, Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Municipal Clerk.

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 mailed to the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on December 21, 2006 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

CABLE TV SYSTEMS

Mr. Hatcher stated that this is the ordinance that he is proposing to adopt. He stated that Comcast has an issue with the area that deals with the 48 hour notice with opening streets and the area on temporary cables. Mr. Hatcher is recommending that we leave them in the ordinance. Mr. Hermansky asked what we can do if they violate the contract. Mr. Hatcher stated that we can take them to the Board of Public Utilities but we can not fine them. He will ask Mr. Guest that question and get back to Council on the issue.

MAINTENANCE OF PEACHTREE COURT

Mr. Hatcher stated that this issue came out of the Planning Board. Mr. Guest has prepared a draft copy of the agreement for Delran to do routine maintenance of the road. The only issue that Mr. Hatcher sees is that he does not believe we should take responsibility of the traffic light. Mr. Hatcher stated that he will have Mr. Guest add that we will not be responsible for any traffic light to the agreement.

AERIAL LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hatcher stated that we sign this agreement every year that authorizes the county to do aerial spraying within the township. Council agreed to sign the agreement.

REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT – THE GRANDE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

Mr. Hatcher stated that this agreement offers similar services that the township provides other condo associations in town. Council agreed with the agreement.

GIS DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

Mr. Hatcher stated that the county is asking that the township sign an agreement allowing us access to the county GIS system. This agreement will last until 2012. There is no cost to the township. Council agreed.

JANITORIAL CONTRACT

Mr. Hatcher stated that we received bids for the janitorial contract and they exceeded the amount budgeted. We received one bid which was \$35,000 and we only budgeted \$30,000. Mr. Hatcher stated that the Emergency Squad asked that we include them in the contract; if we do, it will be \$37,000. Mr. Paris asked if we reached out to other townships. Mr. Hatcher stated that many townships have employees that maintain their facilities. Mr. Chinnici recommended that we re-bid the janitorial services. Council agreed to re-bid for janitorial service.

Mr. Hatcher stated that Westfield Avenue will be closed on March 27th. Mr. Hatcher stated that he has spoken to Mr. Huettel and he has agreed to let the township on his property to clean the drains. Mr. Paris asked if we are going to maintain the pipes. Mr. Macey stated that it will be a temporary fix. Mr. Hatcher also discussed clean-up day on the Green Acres site behind 7-Eleven. Gina Reed stated that they may need a public works employee and a truck to remove the trash. Mr. Macey recommended that we asked Sal if we can park a truck on his property and have truck removed on Monday instead of paying overtime for an employee. Mr. Macey will contact Sal to see if that is possible.

2008 BUDGET

Mr. Hatcher reported that he has provided everyone with updated budget sheets. When we left the last work session, we had selected a budget scenario. Mr. Hatcher stated that we received the state aid information only a few days prior to the last work session and did not have all the information. In talking with the auditor and other towns, he wanted to make Council aware that there is another option. This option would not utilize surplus. When the state cut the aid, they decided to allow the municipalities to put that amount outside the tax levy cap and raise that amount through taxation. This would make the tax increase 5.49 cents, which would be \$128 on the average assessed home. Mr. Hermansky asked if Mr. Hatcher could anticipate what next year's budget will look like. Mr. Hatcher stated that at this time with pensions, salaries and the non-conforming debt payments, we will start next year's budget with approximately a three cent increase. Mr. Ogozalek, Sr. asked if in Mr. Hatcher's opinion next year will look any better. Mr. Hatcher stated that he does not believe it will get any better. Mr. Hatcher feels that the state aid will continue to go down. There has been some talk about phasing the cut in half this year and half next year. Mr. Chinnici asked what everyone is feeling. Mr. Hermansky stated that he would like not to use surplus and raise the taxes so that we do not start next year off bad. Mr.

Ogozalek stated that he is in the middle. Mr. Macey stated that he feels it does not matter what we do next year's will be bad, and this year we should take it from surplus. Mr. Paris stated that we need to get lean and mean. He thinks we need to go through the budget and get stuff out. Mr. Paris stated that he has walked the streets and there are a lot of people upset. Mr. Chinnici recommended that Mr. Paris go through the budget and e-mail them on where he wants to cut. Mr. Paris stated that he would like to cut the salary increase for Mayor and Council. Mr. Macey stated that they did not put one in. Mr. Paris stated that he would like to cut the League and try to consolidate and do shared services. He would like to take over the Sewer Authority. Mr. Hermansky stated that we have had this budget in front of us and we need to make decisions. Mr. Paris stated there are a lot of other areas we can hit. He suggested that maybe we can cut back on raises for the non-contracted employees. Mr. Hermansky asked what the deadline is for introduction. Mr. Hatcher stated that the deadline is tomorrow and he thought that we would introduce on Tuesday at the public meeting. Mr. Paris stated that he sees an impact on residents and it will happen again next year. Mr. Macey stated that we had a \$600,000 line item increase this year and with the pension increase, contracted salaries obligations and added the trash collection problems we could eat up every dollar of the \$600,000 with items that are outside our control. Mr. Hatcher stated that the one scenario has not changed. The first scenario is the scenario that Council agreed on at the last work session. The only item we brought up tonight was the second scenario. Mr. Paris stated that he did not realize the percentage of the impact to the residents. Mr. Paris stated that there are also a couple of bills in Trenton that may help us. Mr. Hermansky stated that two weeks ago we knew that it was going to be \$80 increase. Mr. Hatcher stated that there is a bill out there that would require the towns to have a Certified Purchasing Agent and a Certified Recycling Coordinator that will cost the township. He will supply Council with a resolution opposing that requirement. Mr. Paris asked about maybe contracting out some services. Mr. Hatcher asked what kind of services. Mr. Paris asked about the Tax Assessor. Mr. Hatcher stated that you can not contract that out. Mr. Paris asked about offering early retirement. Mr. Hatcher stated that we can not offer early retirement unless the state authorizes one. Mr. Macey stated that he is willing to give up his \$500 for the League if Mr. Paris attends the MEL seminar at the League that saves the township \$250.00. Mr. Paris asked since everyone goes to the convention how come they don't have any suggestions. Mr. Macey asked what line items Mr. Paris wants to cut. Mr. Paris stated that we should take over the Sewer Authority and use their surplus. Mr. Hermansky stated that that can not happen overnight. Mr. Hermansky suggested that Mr. Paris look for more cuts and we look them over. Mr. Macey suggested that Mr. Paris sit in on the police negotiations. Mr. Paris stated that we need to look at what other towns doing and we need institute what they are doing. We also need to look at taking over the Sewer Authority. Mr. Hatcher stated that they had performed a study on taking over the Sewer Authority but at the time, we would have had to pay off all the existing debt which the township could not afford. They have since changed

that rule. Mr. Macey stated that we discuss this on Tuesday. We will postpone introduction of the budget until after the meeting on 3/25/08.

Public Portion

Chetan Vajapey stated that we are going to have to take some pain now and make the cuts instead of pushing it off. Mr. Macey stated that he feels that we are properly staffed and this Council is not willing to cut employees. Mr. Vajapey asked that if things had to be done right now what would Council do. Mr. Macey stated that we would lay off employees because it is our biggest single line item. Mr. Hatcher stated that the state loses about 3,000 – 4,000 employees every year through attrition, they did not cut any. Also the state hired 12,000 new employees from 1998-2000 when there was no growth. We have grown by 30% over that time and we have added one employee. It is not a spending problem it is a revenue problem. Mr. Vajapey stated that no one likes to lose their job but we should be looking at dealing with this in little doses at a time. Mr. Hatcher stated that the state losing those employees is not that big of an issue. Mr. Hatcher stated that we lost one employee in November and decided not to replace them and that is a big deal here. Mr. Hatcher stated that we asked each department to cut their budget by 5% last year and this year. We did that in the areas that we could. There are certain areas like postage and gasoline that we can not cut. Mr. Vajapey stated that we need a more aggressive attack. Mr. Hermansky stated that the budget is an allocation of funds it is not a spending plan. He suggested that throughout the year departments look to see where they can cut and we may not need to use all the money allocated. Mr. Paris stated that there are still areas we can cut. Mr. Paris asked if we need the money for conferences. Mr. Macey stated that he would like everyone that has certifications to maintain. Mr. Paris stated that he is okay with the conferences if it is to keep employees certified.

Mr. Pogoda asked what happens when we overspend the budget do we have a reserve. Mr. Hatcher stated that we can not overspend the budget it is a crime. We do certain transfers between line items at the end of the year.

Mr. Paris asked that everyone, not just him, take a look at the budget for more cuts. He also suggested cutting out the money for signs.

Keith Pogoda asked if we looked into Shared Services. Mr. Hermansky stated that we look at shared services all the time. He asked if there is anything we are looking at as far as a five year plan. Mr. Hermansky stated that we need to deal with this year, but we do know what we are up against next year. Mr. Pogoda asked about the attrition rate for the township. Mr. Hatcher stated that we have a very young police force.

John Moran asked if we looked sharing services on the healthcare end. Mr. Hatcher stated that we did belong to the State Health Benefits Plan with

hundreds of other municipalities. We decided to go out on our own and saved a significant amount of money. Since then the state health benefits cost has come down. We have looked at the Health Insurance Fund and it would not work for the township but it is something we will continue to look at.

A resident asked if maybe the towns should take a ride up to Trenton. Mr. Hatcher stated that the Governor has meet with towns over the last several weeks.

Frank DeLuzio stated that New Jersey has the highest traveled toll roads yet are taxes are twice as high as every other state. We must be doing something wrong.

Keith Pogoda asked if we looked at putting cameras at stop lights around town. Mr. Hermansky stated that we would have to look at the cost compared to the revenue from additional tickets.

Mr. Paris stated that he received a call from Mr. Kostic stating that last year he sent a letter to the township stating that he would like to make a donation to the township for parks. Mr. Paris stated that he does not remember getting the letter. Mr. Kostic is still willing to make the donation. Mr. Hatcher will contact him tomorrow.

RESOLUTION 2008-20

CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. (Open Public Meeting Act) provides for the exclusion of the public from public meeting for certain reasons; and **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to close the conference meeting of March 19, 2008 for the following reason:

1. CWA Contract Negotiations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting is closed for the reasons above in accordance with the Open Public Meeting act.

Mr. Macey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hermansky to adopt Resolution 2008-20.

There being no questions the roll was called.

Mr. Macey, Mr. Ogozalek, Sr., Mr. Paris, Mr. Hermansky, and Mr. Chinnici voted aye.

Ayes: 5
Nays: None

Motion Approved

At this time, Council went into closed session and stated that they will reopen after they have finished their discussion.

Mr. Macey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hermansky to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted,

Jamey Eggers
Municipal Clerk

DRAFT