

**Tabernacle Township Committee**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2016**  
**2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

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**Sunshine Notice:** This special meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of March 21, 2016 was sent to the Burlington County Times, Central Record and Courier Post on March 15, 2016. Posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public, and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**Governing Body Member in attendance were:**

Joseph W. Barton, Township Committee  
Kimberly A. Brown, Committeewoman  
Richard J. Franzen, Committeeman  
Joseph Yates, IV, Deputy Mayor  
Stephen V. Lee, IV, Mayor

**Professionals in attendance were:** Township Administrator Douglas Cramer, Kevin Frenia, Township Auditor and Municipal Clerk La Shawn R. Barber.

Mayor Lee called the special meeting to order and spoke of wanting to discuss and introduce the Tabernacle Township 2016 Municipal Budget. Formal action will be taken.

Committeeman Barton started the conversation by addressing his recommendation to cap the employee salary raises to 1% and spoke of not being in favor of any additional part-time help for the requested departments in Administration or Public Works. Mr. Barton addressed the TRS line item and spoke of wanting to have a contract first with TRS. Mr. Barton is not in favor of deferring school taxes. Mr. Barton suggested a subcommittee be appointed to look at the scope of work for improvements in the department of public works.

Auditor Frenia explained the New Jersey Statue process of deferring school taxes. School tax collection is done six months before it is due which would allow towns to have more fund balance to reduce the amount needed to increase. It is an accounting adjustment.

Mayor Lee spoke about his research of tax increases for school tax collection years; and moreover, what the Township Committee historically has done to not increase taxes. Mr. Lee spoke of the expense side of the budget and his struggles regarding certain budget line items. Mr. Lee desires to find a balance in the budget which would not lose services. Mr. Lee spoke of removing the \$40,000 amount allocated for TRS in the operating budget, deferring school taxes and increasing the tax rate. Mr. Lee is not in favor of additional new hires.

Committeeman Franzen wants to have a balance budget and a better surplus. He is in favor of a three-cent tax rate, defer school taxes of \$300,000, and eliminate additional or part-time employee positions.

Committeewoman Brown spoke of looking at the long-term budget and agrees with Mr. Franzen and Mr. Lee about raising taxes to reduce \$400,000 gap in the budget.

Deputy Mayor Yates spoke of his recommendation that employee salary increase should be at a cap of 1%, add no part-time help, raising taxes and spoke of being in agreement with eliminating \$35,000 from TRS operating budget.

**Public comment.**

Allen Rowles, Waltham Drive, spoke about Public Works Department doing a good job for brush and snow removal services and should be commended. Mr. Rowles does not want to eliminate services; however, questioned the overtime received for services.

Mr. Cramer stated that Public Works Department absorbed the fire department's budget.

Col. William Lowe, 24 Hidden Acres Drive, spoke of the public works budget line item also includes services for emergency services and public works department at which the Township receives FEMA refund. Overtime and vehicle use is a prime example.

Jason Litowitz, Horseshoe Court, commented on the statute regarding public comments at all meetings and questioned the release of the subcommittee report for emergency services.

Fran Brooks, 78 Moores Meadow Road, spoke of helping the budget process to go line by line, reducing legal fees, decrease employee, Township Committee and professional salaries and have TAA pay for their insurance cost.

Stuart Brooks, 78 Moores Meadow Road, spoke of the revenue side of the budget and questioned if the tax revenue of Farmland Assessed properties had been received. Mr. Brooks spoke of his recommendation to take the TFC #1 out of the public works budget and questioned the amount of money received for TFC.

Bob Moore, Shadow Oakes, question the line item that relates to the fire district money used to offset the budget and question the responsible amount of the fire company. Mr. Moore spoke of not being in favor of deferring school taxes and questioned the impact on school services if the Township could not repay the school.

Allen Rowles, questioned the penny amount on the tax rate.

Tina Marie Coolidge, 28 Waltham Drive, questioned the salary and position of the two part-time positions to be eliminated in administrative and public works and spoke of not wanting anyone to lose their salary; it was suggested the Township Committee to eliminate their salary. Ms. Coolidge spoke of looking forward to receiving the sub-committee report on emergency services regarding their needs assessment.

Sean Vena, 27 Wicklow Drive, spoke of Township Employees making members of the Governing Body look good and commented on the little amount of the proposed salary increase. Mr. Vena spoke of cutting the line item allocated for TRS \$40,000 would result to residents being billed.

Kathy Berger, Woodside Drive, spoke of her recommendation for the budget to eliminate the line item allocated for the part-time administrative employee and she is not in favor of deferring school taxes. Ms. Berger spoke of TRS contribution line item.

Adam Goldy, Moores Meadow Road West, spoke of being in favor of a tax increase; however spoke that it was not a good idea to defer school taxes. Mr. Goldy spoke of the line item for buildings and grounds and the TRA contribution. Mr. Goldy suggested making the fire company a separate line item.

**Closed public comment.**

Members of the Governing Body discussed their draft working documents.

Mr. Lee spoke of giving up his \$5,000 salary same as what Committeewoman Brown has previously done and spoke of being less inclined to make any substantial changes or cuts to public works, until we look at how public works provides services to Tabernacle.

Mr. Cramer spoke of his personal salary received for 2009 and making less money. He has requested the Township Committee to consider at least 2% for their employees.

In regards to employee salary raise, Mr. Barton and Mr. Yates were in favor of 1%; Mr. Franzen and Ms. Brown were in favor of 2% and Mr. Lee was in favor of 1.5 %.

In regard to keeping the Township Committee salary, Mr. Franzen and Mr. Yates was in favor of no change or increase; Mr. Barton expressed being in favor of reducing his salary amount to the same 1.5% percentage of the suggested employees would receive; Mr. Lee suggested a compromise of 1.5% employee salary increase.

The Township Auditor spoke of this budget plan will allow making adjustments at the public hearing, preparing and introduced budget to address the Defer School Taxes in the amount of \$160,000; 4 cent-tax increase and employee salary increase of 1.5%.

**RESOLUTION 2016-52  
A RESOLUTION TO DEFER SCHOOL TAXES FOR 2016**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Law allows school taxes payable to be deferred to a maximum of 50% of the school levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Tabernacle desires to defer **\$160,000.00** of Regional School Tax as of **December 31, 2015**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Tabernacle Township Committee desires to defer **\$160,000.00** of Regional School Tax as of **December 31, 2015**, with the understanding that if any of the amounts deferred is used to support the **2016** Local Municipal Budget, such amounts shall be charged to future operations as funds are available.

- On a motion made by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Franzen, Resolution 2016-52 was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brown, Franzen, Yates, Lee Nays: Barton Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2016-53  
INTRODUCTION OF 2016 TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Budget of the Township of Tabernacle, County of Burlington is for the fiscal year 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2016; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that said budget be published in Tabernacle Township's official newspapers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Township of Tabernacle does hereby approve the following s the Budget for the year 2016.

- On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Yates, Resolution 2016-53 was offered for adoption.
- Public Hearing: April 25, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brown, Franzen, Yates, Lee    Nays: Barton                      Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Yates, members of the Governing Body held adjournment at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*La Shawn R. Barber*

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR  
Municipal Clerk

Approve: 04/25/2016