

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Mayor Metzner called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

**SALUTE TO FLAG:**

All present pledged their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**OPENING PRAYER:**

The Municipal Clerk provided the opening prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

John A. Wilson, Committeeman, present  
Charles Flamini, Committeeman, present  
Anthony R. Mitchell, Committeeman, absent  
Marie D. Lawrence, Committeewoman, present  
Russell H. Bates, Committeeman, present  
Karl Wm. Auwarter, Committeeman, late arrival  
Anthony J. Tomasello, Committeeman, present  
Karen D. Gibison, Committeewoman, late arrival  
Sue Ann Metzner, Mayor, present

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Joseph Gallagher, Township Administrator; Deborah A. Puchakjian, Municipal Clerk; Steve Dringus, CMFO; Ed McGlinchey, Supt. of Public Works; Janice Fitting, Court Administrator; Charles Stevenson, Supt. of Municipal Utilities; Capt. Boisvert, Emergency Management Coordinator; Joe Bigwood, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Kim Lombardo, Recorder.

**“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mayor Metzner announced this meeting is being conducted in full compliance of the “Open Public Meetings Law” and notices were sent to the Courier Post, Record Breeze, Philadelphia Inquirer and other news media. In addition, the notice was provided on the Official Bulletin Board. This meeting is being electronically recorded.

**EMERGENCY EXITS:**

Mayor Metzner announced to please be aware in the event of an emergency, all persons in the courtroom should exit the courtroom quickly and orderly, using the two main doors in the courtroom and then locate the nearest exit to safety. In addition, all cell phones shall be turned off or placed on vibrate during the Township meeting.

**PURPOSE:**

Mayor Metzner stated the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a Budget Workshop Meeting for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon Budget Matters and/or any items of emergent nature or time sensitive.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP – PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mayor Metzner stated Committeeman Bates was correct when he stated Roberts Rules dictate that the Township Committee should speak regarding the budget prior to the public speaking.

The meeting was turned over to Committeeman Flamini who thanked the Messrs. Gallagher and Dringus and the Department Heads for all their hard work on the budget.

Committeeman Flamini questioned the amount of money needed to balance the budget if there are no furloughs, to which Mr. Dringus stated \$250,000.00.

Mr. Gallagher discussed the plans for balancing the budgets such as the use of pension deferral, and the \$780,000.00 gained by the sale of the trash transfer station and the restructuring of the construction office. He also summarized the tax increase and its impact on the budget.

Committeeman Flamini explained why he does not support a tax increase and furloughs. He would like to give two quarterly rebates to water users this year.

A discussion took place regarding funding for upcoming projects.

***Committeeman Auwarter arrived at the meeting.***

The budget is expected to be introduced on May 26, 2009.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Herb Leary, Construction Official – He spoke regarding the impact of the restructuring of the construction office on the employees and residents. He supports no layoffs, one transfer and one title change. He provided a package to the Governing Body supporting same. He stated the proposed budget plan will only save the Township \$60,000.00. He is not in support of the restructuring of the construction office.

Karl Walko, Council 13 Union President – He spoke regarding the restructuring of the construction office and using next year's surplus. He supports raising taxes and avoiding potential problems for next year.

Shirley Christopher, Township employee – She stated the construction office brought in a lot of revenue and questioned why their office is the only office being impacted by the budget deficit. She urged the Governing Body to consider Mr. Leary's plan.

Shannon Butler, Township employee - She questioned if no furloughs are being considered. She believes the monies from the MTEB litigation would stop the threat of furloughs and the construction office and would save on health care. She also questioned how will no tax increase affect next year's budget.

Sheronda Bridges, Township employee – She would like to know who decided to install the central air conditioner in the annex building which could have been used to save jobs. She also spoke regarding the restructuring of the construction office.

Rich Ostermueller, Township employee – He questioned the breakdown of the taxes, to which Mayor Metzner answered. He stated the Township should raise taxes to pay employee salaries.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Metzner closed public participation.

**COMMENTS BY OFFICIALS:**

Committeeman Flamini explained why he wants to give residents water rebates.

Mr. Dringus described the need to restructure the construction office, which the State mandates has to be self-sufficient.

Mayor Metzner explained why the Governing Body decided to install the central air conditioner in the annex building. She also expressed her concern regarding the depletion of the surplus.

***Committeewoman Gibison arrived at meeting.***

Committeeman Auwarter stated he will not support no tax increases and water rebates.

Committeeman Bates believes the employees have a great contract. He also stated salaries would be cut, including the Governing Body's.

Mayor Metzner believes there needs to be a tax increase and she supports the Governing Body taking a pay cut.

Committeewoman Gibison states the Township Committee is not working together and is surprised by Committeeman Flamini's plan.

A discussion continued regarding the budget, the economy and ideas to save money.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**R-2009-190** Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 – Negotiations

**A Motion** was made by Committeewoman Gibison and seconded by Committeeman Auwarter to hold a closed session at 8:45 pm. The motion carried.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:**

The Governing Body returned to public session at 9:05 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A Motion** was made by Committeeman Flamini and seconded by Committeeman Tomasello to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. The motion carried.

TOWNSHIP OF WINSLOW

MAY 19, 2009

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MAYOR & TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

**PREPARED BY:**

Deborah A. Puchakjian, RMC  
Municipal Clerk  
Township of Winslow

DAP/lld

Total Meeting Time 2 Hours and 20 Minutes