

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Metzner called the meeting to order at 6:35 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:

Russell H. Bates, Committeeman, late arrival
Charles Flamini, Committeeman, late arrival
Karen D. Gibison, Committeewoman, absent
Marie D. Lawrence, Committeewoman, present
Thaddeus Mackey, Committeeman, present
Anthony J. Tomasello, Committeeman, present
John A. Wilson, Committeeman, present
Barry M. Wright, Committeeman, present
Sue Ann Metzner, Mayor, present

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Joseph Gallagher, Township Administrator; Deborah A. Puchakjian, Municipal Clerk; Ed McGlinchey, Supt. of Public Works/Zoning Officer; Steve Dringus, CMFO; Kirk Applegate, Township Auditor; Chief Anthony Bello, WTPD; Charles Stevenson, Supt. of Municipal Utilities; Connie Hegyi, Tax Collector; Robert Boisvert, Emergency Management Coordinator; Janice Fitting, Court Administrator; Joe Bigwood, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Steve Kessler, Tax Assessor; Karl Walko, Council 10 President; and 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 stated 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 Special Budget Workshop Meeting for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon 2010 Budget Workshop Matters.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Mr. Gallagher welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated the purpose of the meeting was to go over the spending plan for 2010. He stated the budget will be introduced on April 13th. He further explained the layoff plan, which includes two demotions, twelve police officers and eleven civilian personnel. Mr. Gallagher summarized all departments budget cuts and/or budget allocations.

Committeeman Flamini arrived at this time.

Mr. Dringus went over the revenues, expenditures and loss of State Aid in the amount of \$1,544,550.00, which is a substantial impact.

Mr. Gallagher thanked the department heads for their cooperation in decreasing their spending.

Committeeman Bates arrived at this time.

Mr. Dringus went over the impact of tax increases in one percent increments. He detailed the breakdown of the maximum tax increase of 8.8 cents tax increase. He explained the summary levy cap calculations.

Messrs. Dringus and Gallagher discussed the consideration of ceasing the trash removal at the schools by May 1st, thereby saving the Township \$90,000.00.

The Governing body asked questions, which were answered by Messrs. Gallagher and Dringus.

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MAYOR & TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

A discussion took place regarding the use of the MTBE litigation funds, surplus and raising taxes to balance the municipal budget.

The Governing Body also discussed layoffs, demotions and concessions.

Mr. Gallagher added the unions are waiting for the results of the forensic audit prior to negotiations.

Mr. Gallagher recommended the Governing Body schedule another budget meeting. The Governing Body agreed to hold a budget workshop meeting on April 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ron Eaton, Cedarbrook – He discussed the use of the MTBE monies and tax increases to balance the budget. He spoke regarding the proposed police layoffs and the negotiations, which he believes there have been no concessions from the Township. He wants to save jobs. He is looking for some direction from the Township.

George Smith, WTPA President – He spoke regarding the negotiations between the Township and the police. He wants to save the police officers, as well as the civilian workers. He questioned the amount of furlough days needed to save jobs.

Karl Walko, Council 10 President – He wants the result of the forensic audit prior to negotiations. He stated the Township needs to bring something to the table and to display leadership.

Gene Regan, 10 Whiting Street – He stated a tax increase will not chase people out of town. He spoke regarding saving jobs, such as older employees retiring.

Jim Blackwell, a 7-year resident of Winslow Township – He talked about the need for more police officers and Patrolmen Calabrese who was killed in the line of duty.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Metzner closed public participation.

COMMENTS BY OFFICIALS:

Committeeman Bates stated that Mr. Gallagher is the person to speak to with regard to negotiations.

Committeeman Wright stated the union need to come up with concessions. The Township does not have the money and that employees cannot be pressured into retirement.

Mayor Metzner discussed the salary cuts for Committee members.

A discussion took place.

CLOSING PRAYER:

The Municipal Clerk provided the opening prayer.

ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion was made by Committeewoman Lawrence and seconded by Committeeman Bates to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. The motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

Deborah A. Puchakjian, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Township of Winslow

DAP/lld

Total Meeting Time 2 Hours and 15 Minutes