

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Budget Workshop**

The Franklin Township Committee held a Budget Workshop Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bonnie Butler opened the meeting in accordance with the "Open Public Meeting Act" Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 at 6:00 pm having been duly advertised and a copy posted in the office of the Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Butler-Yes, Flynn-Yes, DeAngelis-Absent, Toretta-Yes; Pence-Yes. (4) Present (1) Absent

**Present were:** Dawn Stanchina, CFO, Ron Read, Road Foreman, Raymond Read, OEM/Fire Chief, Jim Schlessinger, FTYA President, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk.

The 2014 Expenditure Budget, prepared by our CFO, was reviewed per each Line Item as follow:

**Letters of request received:**

**Full Time Employees**

Full Time Employees proposed a 5% increase, committee considering a 2% increase.

Due to an increase in employee health insurance, those employees covered by the township's health insurance have a considerable increase of out of pocket expense for prescription drugs.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Toretta to reimburse those full time employees enrolled in the township's health insurance plan for prescription drugs by a monthly voucher, not to exceed \$150, per employee and will be retroactive from August 1, 2014 to continue through July 31, 2015.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Joe Flynn	X		
Jeff DeAngelis			X
Michael Toretta	X		
Jacob Pence	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

**Part Time Employees**

Letters were received from the Assessor, Construction Departments advising their budget remains the same this year without any increase. CFO, proposed a 2% increase, committee would like to see set office hours. No other letters received from any other department.

**Miscellaneous Line Items: (Considering an increase as follows)**

Financial Administration: S&W line item currently at \$3,000 looking to increase for 2015 to \$3,200.

Audit Services: OE line item currently at \$23,700 looking to increase for 2015 to \$25,000.

Land Use Board: OE line item currently at \$10,000 looking to increase for 2015 to \$11,000.

Employee Group Insurance line item currently at \$61,000 looking to increase for 2015 to an additional 5%.

Other Insurance Premiums line item currently at \$87,000 looking to increase for 2015 to an additional 5%.

Fire Department: OE Hydrant Services line item currently at \$12,000 looking to increase for 2015 to \$13,000.

Recreation: OE line item currently at \$5,000 looking to increase for 2015 to \$7,000.

**DPW**

Ron Read DPW Foreman submitted a proposal as follows:

- 1. Road Maintenance \$250,000
- 2. New Big Truck \$145,000
- 3. New Salt Building \$40,000
- 4. New Loader \$140,000
- 5. New Roadside Mower \$100,000

Township considering to Bond to pave the needed remaining township roads. Oil and chip cannot be included in a Bond. Road Maintenance: OE was at \$157,500 in 2014 considering \$170,000 for 2015.

**OEM**

Sonny Read will be looking to purchase the following in 2014, per letter submitted:

- 1. 1 Base Station Radio for the EOC; \$750 (can be purchased out of Capital, with a useful like of 5 years of more)

The budget line item can remain the same including required training classes.

**Fire Department**

Chief Read submitted a budget request for 2015 as follows totaling \$54,273.00:

- 1. Personal Protective Equipment including; 5 sets of gear to be replaced; total \$15,512.00
- 2. Annual Mandatory Testing P-OSHA & NFPA 1911-1932 testing of miscellaneous equipment, ladders, pumps, hoses, flow test on breathing air apparatus, gas meters recalibrated; total \$19,110.00
- 3. Repairs on township owned trucks and department owned trucks and equipment, engine repairs and service, drive train repairs and service, tires, pumps, electronic devices; \$19,110.00.

Township Committee considering \$54,200 for this budget line item.

## **Rescue Squad**

Chief Karen Chiu not present at this meeting and no letter submitted pertaining to budget requests for 2015. In speaking to Chief Chiu she advised that the squad had no special request for the coming year and thank the committee for whatever they give to them. However, she did mention that 14 of the 23 string lights for the community holiday tree do not work, if the committee is able to contribute toward the lights for the December 5<sup>th</sup> tree lighting.

## **Franklin Township Youth Association**

Jim Schlessinger, President of the Youth Association presented a proposal as follows:

Port-a-Johns and Line Painting come out of Recreational Trust Fund.

Looking to run electric to the concession stand at the Asbury Field, can cost \$10,000 up to \$20,000. Hoping to alleviate future break-ins at the stand, one generator stolen and multiple break-ins.

Athletic Fields are in a state of disrepair and there is no room in the FTYA budget to perform necessary maintenance to the fields.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Joe Flynn to authorize the FTYA up to \$26,000 for 2015, for expenses to repair/maintain athletic fields, that fall within Category 2A in Ordinance 2005-15 for development and maintenance of recreational properties. (A resolution to memorialize this action will be at the December 1, 2015 meeting).

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Joe Flynn	X		
Jeff DeAngelis			X
Michael Toretta	X		
Jacob Pence	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Joe Flynn – nothing further to report

Michael Toretta – nothing further to report

Jacob Pence – nothing further to report

Jeff DeAngelis– absent

Bonnie Butler – nothing further to report

## **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

No one present from the public

A discussion ensued as to an earlier conversation as to bonding for the Department of Public Works items requested. If we are considering a Bond Ordinance for those items we may want to consider the windows to be replaced in the office, due to leakage, heat and air conditioning problem in the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor's Offices. Committeeman Toretta stressed a concern with bonding how this will affect an increase in future taxes, and will follow up with our auditors.

Mayor Butler has been keeping invoices of past grants and would like an accounting of reimbursements for past projects; Highland Modules, Pohatcong Creek Groundwater Contamination, Flood Control Project. How much does the township still owe and how much has been paid?

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 17th day of November, 2014, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-1, that the Township Committee shall discuss the following matter in executive session

### **PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS**

It is not possible at this time for the Township Committee to determine when and under what circumstances the item which is to be discussed in executive session can be publicly disclosed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved on this 17th, day of November, 2014 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at 8:50 pm.

On Motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Joe Flynn to exit to executive session at 8:50 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded Jacob Pence to return to the regular session at 9:03 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Numbers will be reviewed by our CFO and Auditor to be brought back to the township committee for further review and discussion.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Joe Flynn, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 9:03 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR  
Municipal Clerk