TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Clerk Donna Costello. Mrs. Costello advised that Councilman Fitzpatrick will not be in attendance tonight and Councilwoman Smith is running a little late.
ROLL CALL: FITZPATRICK, ANDES, GOLINSKI, SHAW, STECKY, KUSER.
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MAYOR HUSSA, ADMINISTRATOR WARD, CMFO GOBLE, CHIEF WAGNER, LT. NIGRO
President Kuser offered congratulations to Chief Wagner for being elected to the post of President of the Morris County Chiefs Association. He then continued to note other individuals in attendance.
FIRE CHIEF CROTHERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPT., AND SUPERINTENDENT OF DENVILLE SCHOOLS, DR. D. CLARK.

President Kuser noted that he will open the Public Portion for any matter other than the Police Budget. He said that it seems that many people are here for the Police Budget and there will be a separate Public Portion for that later in the meeting.
OPEN PUBLIC PORTION:
Ed Banagan, 38 Old Mill Drive, advised that he attended a GEM meeting last night. He said that it was interesting but, the screen presentation was too small and hard to read and they did not distribute any hand-outs. Mr. Banagan noted that he was amazed at the number of shared services that some towns have. He said that a list of all of those services might be helpful. Mr. Banagan stated that he always thought that the theme of GEM was to regionalize. He said that the speaker stated that people blame the politicians for regionalizing and he feels it is better to increase shared services among the municipalities. Mr. Banagan noted that he thinks it would be helpful to find out, from towns with shared services, what they like about it and what they don’t.
Dan Worts, 18 Spring Road, said that, on a positive note, he would like to thank Police Officer Chris Dale who recently retired. Mr. Worts stated that, being a police officer himself, he knows that the hardest part of the job is shift work. He said that Chris Dale was on the road for many years, at great expense to his family. Mr. Worts praised Officer Dale for being a good friend and for always being responsive to the community.
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET - CHIEF CROTHERS
Administrator Ward gave a brief introduction before turning the meeting over to Chief Crothers.
Mr. Ward advised that, having explained what a tight budget year this will be to the department heads back in November, the First Aid and Fire Department, along with all of the other departments, have submitted very responsible budgets. He noted that their operating budgets over the last three years has actually decreased. Mr. Ward stated
that they have effectively managed to provide services to the community by doing more with less, which we have asked of all of our departments. He noted that their capital budget will be the focus of much of the presentation. Mr. Ward advised that he met with the Chief this afternoon and it was decided that, due to a change in regulations, the Scott Packs that were scheduled for replacement, at a cost of $35,000 this year, can be pushed off for several years. Mr. Ward noted that he thinks that the discussion from the Fire Department and First Aid Squad will be centered around the replacement of the First Aid Captain’s vehicle, which he has requested photos and justification for from the Chief.

President Kuser asked Mr. Ward to direct the Council to the proper section in the budget book.

Mr. Ward replied that it is Page #16-03; he advised the audience that there are five budget books available for them to look and asked that they share them, since we do have a large turn-out this evening.

President Kuser, for clarification purposes, asked Mr. Ward if the item on Page #16-04, four (4) Scott Packs, is being taken out of the budget. Mr. Ward replied that the Chief will explain that in a little more detail. He said that he believes that the item that is listed for 2013 on Page 16-04, is something that the Chief will be asking for consideration for this year. Mr. Ward noted that it is the replacement of the First Aid Captain’s vehicle.

Chief Crothers took the floor and thanked the Council for inviting him to present the budget. The Chief provided a hand-out to the Council members (a copy of which is on file in the Clerk’s office), and went over each page, adding any details that he felt might be helpful. He advised that Council of the many extra hours of work performed by the Fire Department during the severe snow storm, both in covering the Fire House for calls and going out to shovel out fire hydrants. Chief Crothers emphasized that these were all volunteer hours.

Councilman Shaw asked what would be done with the old vehicle if a new vehicle is approved. The Chief replied that he was hoping that it could be used for a back-up but we need something a little bit more reliable than this car for the Captain. He explained that the First Aid Captain goes out on more calls than anyone in the Department; his car is equipped with first aid materials that can be used until the ambulance arrives. Chief Crothers further explained that the Captain’s car is over ten years old and he called the Council’s attention to the Vehicle Replacement Chart on the last page of the hand-out. He noted that most of the vehicles are over 10 years old. The Chief added that this vehicle was to be replaced last year but the Department was requested to hold off until this year.

Councilman Shaw interjected that he spoke with Freeholder Feyl last week and was told that, if they need a communications vehicle, there are several at the County that could be leased to them for a back-up. Chief Crothers responded that his guys are called out in the middle of the night for ambulance calls and can’t call the County and ask for a car because theirs broke down. He reiterated that all of these men and
women are volunteers. The Chief related many instances where his people are out
doing things for the town, which do not come under the responsibility of the Fire
Department, without being reimbursed in any way.
President Kuser asked if we could get back on track here with the budget.
Chief Crothers provided details of each area in which his operating budget for this year
has been cut by a total of $3,350.00.
First Aid Captain Bill Keating then went over the First Aid Budget, explaining the various
services of the Squad and the number and type of calls that are answered as well as
the hours that are expended. Captain Keating explained that the First Responder Unit
#232 that they are asking to have replaced, has approximately 75,000 miles on it and is
equipped with medical equipment that could save a life before the ambulance is able to
respond. He noted that the amount requested for this vehicle has been reduced from
$60,000 to $50,000. Chief Crothers added that he and the other chiefs met and
decided that, with the state of the budget this year, they can find other ways to acquire
the equipment that they need for the vehicle.
Councilman Andes asked what happened with line #221 on Page #16-03, Automotive
Expenses. He said that there is an increase of about $9,000 in 2010. The Chief
explained that he had to buy tires for the back of the ladder truck, the pumper and
ambulance. He advised that there were also some major breakdowns. Chief Crothers
noted that there has already been a break-down of the compressor on the ladder truck
this year which cost about $3,000.
Mr. Andes, referring to the benefits of the first responder unit, asked Mr. Keating if he
goes directly to the scene from his home because the vehicle is there. Mr. Keating
replied that it depends on the situation but, for the most part, he does try to go the
scene first.
Mr. Andes asked how the equipment on the first responder unit compares to that which
is on the ambulance. Mr. Keating advised that the vehicle is equipped with a
defibrillator, oxygen, a backboard, blankets and other common first aid equipment.
Mr. Andes noted that 412 calls were answered last year and that Capt. Keating was on
sick leave for two months. He asked if the car was out of service for those two months.
Capt. Keating replied that the car was shared by the Lieutenants during that period of
time.
Councilman Golinski commented that, if Capt. Keating made 412 calls with that car and
was out on leave for two months, it is safe to assume the total vehicle probably went on
over 500 calls a year. Chief Crothers replied that it would have been at least that many.
Mr. Golinski said that the life expectancy for that car is estimated at about 10 years, so
this $50,000 investment would allow us to respond to about 5,000 first aid calls faster.
The Chief replied that is correct. Mr. Golinski stated that it equates to about $10 per call
to enable the First Responder to answer a call more quickly and, perhaps save a life.
Councilman Stecky had no questions.
Councilman Shaw had no questions.
Township Council
Councilwoman Smith asked Chief Crothers how much his department is paid. The Chief replied that they are volunteers and are paid nothing. Mrs. Smith said that she was trying to make a point that this is a full volunteer staff.

Mrs. Smith asked Capt. Keating, of the 412 calls, how many did he arrive at first and give medical assistance. Capt. Keating replied that it was at least one-half. Mrs. Smith asked if it is not true that Mr. Keating’s arrival at a scene to provide first aid is generally done in a shorter time than it takes for the ambulance to arrive. Chief Crothers explained that they like to roll the ambulance with a crew of two people and have to wait for the second person to arrive before they can leave. He added that it is a requirement to have two persons and, having Capt Keating get to the scene quickly does get the first aid started sooner. Mrs. Smith asked what type of vehicle is now being used as the First Responder Unit. Chief Crothers replied that it is a 2000 Ford Expedition. Mrs. Smith asked if the vehicle is here in the parking lot tonight for inspection by the Council, if they wished to do that. Capt. Keating replied that it is.

Councilwoman Smith spoke about the fine work that is done, on a full volunteer basis, by the Fire Department and the First Aid Squad. She added that she strongly recommends that the Council approve the purchase of the vehicle that it being requested. Councilwoman Smith noted that the cost-saving for the Township by not having a paid Fire Department and First Aid Squad is immeasurable. The Chief observed that Denville is one of the busiest companies for fire and first aid in Morris County. He said that many surrounding towns call Denville for mutual aid because they know we hare here to lend a hand, and a lot of them are paid ambulance calls. Chief Crothers noted that he is not asking for himself, or his department, he is asking for the benefit of the residents of Denville.

Mayor Hussa stated that, with the understanding that the $35,000 for Scott Packs is being removed, Administration is willing to put in the $50,000 for the First Responder Unit to be replaced. President Kuser, for clarification purposes, asked the Mayor if the plan is to move the replacement from 2013 to 2011 for $50,000. The Mayor replied that is their recommendation.

Councilman Andes noted that Capt. Keating just celebrated his 25th year as our First Aid Captain.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

President Kuser stated that he will open a Public Portion just for the Police Department. He asked for a show of hands to determine how many people wish to speak. He noted that approximately 20 people indicated that they wish to speak and said that he will limit each person to three to five minutes.

Dr. Drucilla Clark, Superintendent of Denville’s K to 8 schools, stated that she is here to speak for her students and the DARE program. Dr. Clark advised that she has been notified by Chief Wagner that, due to a manpower shortage, he is required to re-assign the DARE officer from the schools to deal with the safety of the streets and community. She noted that the program was held for the 5th grade students in Lake View School
and those students completed the program. Dr. Clark added that, due to the manpower
shortage, the Riverview 5th grade students will not receive the DARE program. She said
that it is her understanding that, if shortage continues, two officers would need to be
replaced in order for DARE to happen next year. Dr. Clark spoke of the tough decisions
facing the Chief, Council, Administrator and Mayor in this year’s budget. She said that
she considers Chief Wagner a partner in protecting our schools. Dr. Clark noted that
she understands that safety comes first but that it is unfair to the students who will not
receive the DARE program. She advised that she and the Chief have explored a
number of ideas but have not found a workable solution and asked the Council to come
up with an idea for her Riverview 5th graders. Dr. Clark stated that the value of the
Police officer in the school cannot be replaced. She asked the Council to consider this
in their decision making and to help find a way to fund the DARE program for this year’s
5th grade Riverview students.
Don Casse, 21 Snyder Avenue, stated that he does not envy those who have to craft a
budget in these times, especially with the cutbacks from Trenton. He said that we have
a great Fire Department and a great Police Department. Mr. Casse noted that he is
always concerned with safety and we have to make sure that our Police Department is
adequately funded and staffed. Mr. Casse cited a newspaper article that discussed
gang activity in Morris County and he was shocked to hear that there is some gang
activity here in Denville.
Ryan Greenhagan, a Denville school student, spoke about the lessons that he learned
in the DARE program. A copy of his statement is attached to these minutes.
Barbara DeLuna spoke as a representative of the MAC Committee. She said that she
would like to appeal to the Council, if there is an appeal process, noting that the
economic crunch is apparent to everyone. Ms. DeLuna spoke about the process for
acquiring funding for the MAC committee and said that she is concerned with future
funding because there is no guarantee that it will be approved next year. She asked if
the Council is committed to next year. Ms. DeLuna commented that the second part of
her question is that it was thought that the safety of the town would be jeopardized by
continuing. She said that, based on last year, it is approximately 100 hours to finish.
She asked what risk would be posed to the community by letting the DARE Officer finish
the business plan.
Jean Sullivan, PTA President, repeated the previous comments regarding the value of
the police in the classroom and the importance of the DARE program. She also
mentioned the newspaper article on gangs and said that she feels that, partially due to
the DARE program, our Police Officers are aware of who the Denville children are who
may become part of a gang.
Gary Beumee, 10 Skytop Drive, noted that he has two children who have completed the
DARE program and another on the way. He cited the terrible fiscal times in the country
and, if anything, we are at risk of going the wrong way. Mr. Beumee stated that he was
here when the Mayor was sworn in and we were fighting the same battle and we kept
the DARE program. The Mayor interjected, “I got over it.”. He said that, at the time,
there was even talk of escalating it to the middle school, which he supports. Mr. Beumee commented that to go backwards and lose the program would be a huge deficit. He noted that there is money in the budget for a skate park. Mr. Beumee suggested that some money be redistributed and put to use in saving the DARE program.

Tina Smith, 22 Rosewood Lane, addressing Mayor Hussa, said that his comment of “I got over it”, gets to her because what she thinks about when she thinks of a Mayor of this town is leadership. She said that she is looking for leadership and when she is embarrassed because she feels that she has to come down here and listen to Chief Wagner’s budget again. Ms. Smith commented that she had heard that the Mayor wanted to get rid of the fireworks and she spoke against that idea, stating that the residents get together for that event every year.

Ms. Smith then spoke about Grace Predmore, Denville’s Social Services Director, and the rumor that her position and/or benefits are to be cut. She praised Mrs. Predmore’s work and spoke of all she does for the residents of Denville. Ms. Smith noted that there was a drinking incident, for which the Police had to be called, last week at St. Mary’s and they are middle schoolers. She read the winning essay written by Morgan DeLoretto, a student at Lakeview School this year. (A copy of the essay was not provided to the Clerk.) Ms. Smith, addressing Mayor Hussa, stated that the children of Denville are our future. She said that when he thinks about taking DARE away, she hopes he reconsiders for all of the kids in Denville.

Mayor Hussa stated for the record that the fireworks have never been cut. He said that the fireworks are funded every year through solicitations from businesses, which fund the majority of the fireworks. The Mayor noted that the small remaining portion is funded through the municipal budget.

America Lublin, 3 Tonnelier Way, advised that a police officer had helped her when she was young by telling her all about the evils of drugs. She spoke of the importance of educating young children about drugs and asked the Council to do whatever they can to save the DARE program by cutting something else if necessary.

Jennifer Fox, 43 Indian Spring Trail, advised that she has a daughter who is a sophomore at Morris Knolls and who went through the DARE program at Lakeview and attended the Junior Police Academy. She said that her daughter now participates as a staff member in the Junior Police Academy. Mrs. Fox noted that the size of the average family in Denville has increased but the Police staff has not and that there is crime in Denville. She said that she believes the optimum number of officers needed for the Police Department to run properly is 35 and we now have 31 and we do not have Police presence on our streets. Mrs. Fox noted that both her brother and sister have had drug problems and she is the only one of the three children who did not experiment with drugs and the only one to go to college. She related an incident about her daughter offering help to another student who was talking about meth and advising her to find out about it before she did anything she would regret. Mrs. Fox stated that the presence of the police officer in the schools is just as important as his presence on
Lexie Rosine and three of her fellow students, Natalie Campo, Carlie Berkland and Jenna Kramer came before the Council. Each of these fifth-grade students from Lakeview School, who have gone through the DARE program spoke about the positive influence of the program and the loss that it would be to the fifth-grade students in the other schools, if they are deprived of the program.

Jill Kellett, 7 Rocky Heights Rd., stated that the DARE program was not in existence when she was in school and she was trying to remember what she learned about drugs at that time. She said that she could not remember anything that she learned about drugs but she does remember the seven kids who died from drugs in her high school. Ms. Kellett commented that we need to keep the DARE program in our schools because it is important.

Sari Caruso, 6 Cambridge Avenue, said that she has good news because she spoke to Mayor Hussa on Tuesday and he informed her that there is no crime in Denville. She said that she believes we do have crime in Denville because it would be absolutely foolish to believe that we don’t. Ms. Caruso stated that we have to get back to the people who elected these officials. She noted that the people have faith that the Council, Mayor and Administration will do the right thing. Ms. Caruso asked how many officers are being proposed in the budget.

Administrator Ward replied it is one officer. Ms. Caruso noted that there are four slots and went on to praise the professionalism of the Police officers and added that they are also members of our community. She said that she has been walking around her house talking to herself and she wonders how many times she will have to come here to say what an incredible thing we have and why lose it. Ms. Caruso noted that she was front and center the last time there was a fight for DARE and these officers need back-up, they are just as important as our kids. She said that we have to give them two officers and there is no other option. Ms. Caruso stated that she is pleading with the Administration and Council to do the right thing.

Mayor Hussa interjected that he did not tell Mrs. Caruso that there is no crime; he said that he told her there is no crime wave. Mrs. Caruso responded that the Mayor should not insult her intelligence and should be honest about what he said.

Michelle McGlynn, 38 Longview Trail East, essentially repeated the comments of the previous speakers regarding the value of the Fire Department, Police Department and the DARE program. She also spoke of her grave concern about gangs in Denville and the articles about gangs in the newspaper. Mrs. McGlynn petitioned the Council to find the money to preserve the DARE program.

Penny Nappi, 376 Diamond Spring Road, related a bullying incident involving her son and explained how it was taken care of by Lt. Nigro and the bullying stopped. She said that she is appealing to the Council to save the DARE program and to give the Police Department what they need to help the children and the community. Mrs. Nappi asked the Council to do whatever they have to do to get Officer Underwood back into
Riverview School now.
Lexie Rosine read an essay written by her friend about the DARE program.
Cody Greenhagen, brother of Ryan Greenhagen, stated that he went through the DARE program but got in trouble when he was younger. He said that he had “connected” with Officer Torkos who helped him and put him on the right track. Mr. Greenhagen commented that the younger children need the DARE program and he thanked Office Torkos for being there for him.
John Walker, 44 Riverside Drive, commented that Denville has a proactive Police Department. He said that, where he came from, the Chief, Deputy Chiefs and Captains never left the office. Mr. Walker cited occasions when Chief Wagner was out helping in the flood waters and Lt. Nigro was out waving down speeders. He stated that if the DARE program is stopped, the gangs, drugs and such are going to cause a huge problem. Mr. Walker said that everyone is worried about cutting but his question is: how much more would it cost, per household, to add another officer to keep the DARE program? He suggested that, at $25 per household, for 4,000 homes it would cover a $100,000 salary, with benefits, so why not increase.
Cheryl Shea, 2 Knolltop Court, asked if the Council would consider putting an officer back in the budget, now that they have heard some of the parents and children? President Kuser replied that, at the end of the Public Portion, the Mayor will speak and it is the Mayor’s budget. He advised that the Council just received the budget about a week ago to look at and he would like to hear from the Mayor and Administration on it. Mrs. Shea asked if one-half of the salary could be put back with the rest being raised through a fund-raiser.
Lisa Wagner, 28 Snyder Ave., noted that she is Chief Wagner’s wife and her comments were unplanned. She said that she apologizes if it is inappropriate, but felt that there are things she wanted to say. Mrs. Wagner commented that the town has two wonderful departments in the Fire and Police Departments. She spoke of the time and energy expended by the Chief and his officers and the many family events that have to be missed by them. Mrs. Wagner noted that the wives understand that it goes with the job and they get passed that. She stated that when they are short-staffed, it gets a little scary for her wondering if he is going to come home. Mrs. Wagner spoke about her husband diverting to an accident scene to back up his men because they were stretched so thin. She said that she would hate to see someone get hurt because they don’t have enough staff to back them up. Mrs. Wagner asked the Council to give the Department what they need to do the job for the community.
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.
Mayor Hussa stated that he appreciates everyone’s comments. He advised that, for the record, he is 100% in favor of continuing the DARE program. The Mayor read from an e-mail that he sent to a resident noting that, “I has been brainstorming with various individuals on how to continue the program.” He added, still reading from the e-mail, that “it is the decision of the Chief of Police to organize his personnel to make the
program happen. I know he has been talking to Administrator Ward about staffing and related matters, in an effort to come up with a creative and yet fiscally responsible solution to see DARE continue. The bottom line is just like Denville Township contributed, in a responsible way, when the School Board lost the second ballot question to continue with many school programs that were in jeopardy of being lost. We hope there will be a positive dialogue to find a way to keep this program alive.” The Mayor stated that he is for DARE and appreciated Mrs. Shea’s comments. He said that is the spirit that he would like to convey to this group tonight. The Mayor noted that we have a flat budget, which was very much demanded by the public, and have worked very hard for three years to get there. He noted that prices are escalating and, another reality is that we have a 2% hard cap which has been mandated by the Governor. The Mayor said that it is very uncertain whether or not we can fund another policeman in our budget. He said that he has spoken to Dr. Clark and various other people to come up with new ideas. The Mayor noted the following possible changes to find a solution:

Restructure part of the Police Department.

Combine classes, creating less manpower demand.

Partially fund DARE through the $13,000 MAC grant that is received every year.

Mayor Hussa advised that the Chief has stated that he wants to do what is best for the children, so he hopes that there can be some positive restructuring that will help somewhat. The Mayor said that fund raisers have also been suggested. He said that he hopes, in the spirit of cooperation, we can get by this, just as we did the second question.

Councilman Andes commented that three years ago he was Council President when a large number of residents came out, the last time DARE was on the block. He said that, at that time, he explained that the Mayor makes the recommended budget to the Council, the Council allocates the money in the budget and the Mayor decides whether or not to spend it. Mr. Andes advised that the Department heads then make the determination on how to run their department with the funds that are allocated to them. Councilman Andes added, for the record, that he has five children, all of whom had Officer Wagner for their DARE officer and, in his house, he is still Officer Wagner because of that. He said that the program served his children well and four of the five children serve on the Fire Department. The Councilman related an incident concerning one of his children answering a first aid call where she arrived before the Police and was bitten by a dog. Mr. Andes spoke about a time, approximately six years ago, when the Chief of Police asked for two additional men to staff the Community Policing Division. He said that he thought that was great because, at that time, gangs were just emerging in the area and he was shocked to hear about gangs in Denville.

Councilman Andes stated that the elected officials are here to provide the community with two things, above all else, Public Health and Public Safety. He said that we need to keep our citizens safe and eliminating DARE is as disgraceful as it would be to eliminate Dial-A-Ride for the Senior Citizens bus. Mr. Andes stated that we should have been working together on this before the two policemen retired and this audience
would not have had to be here tonight. He said that yesterday, at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the Mayor stated that we have a flat budget with no decreases in services. Addressing the Mayor, Mr. Andes noted that not having DARE is a decrease in services. He said that we need to work together to figure out how we can put the DARE program back, effective immediately.

Councilwoman Smith commented that she appreciates everyone coming out tonight, as they did many years ago and, she welcomes them to come back as often as they wish to let the Council know about their issues. She said that the Council has just begun to get into the budget and the preliminary budget that was presented was a flat budget. Mrs. Smith noted that she doesn’t believe in a flat budget because costs are going up and it’s necessary to increase. She said that they are still in the initial stage and she has not heard the budget from the Police Department, nor have we evaluated the entire budget to make these decisions or recommendations. Mrs. Smith advised that, at this point, she can’t say where we are going to go, but she has heard all of the concerns from the audience. She said that it is very important to provide for the health and safety of our citizens and it will definitely be taken into consideration as we go through the budget. Mrs. Smith noted that flat is nice but might not be realistic and she asked the people to recognize that, when the time comes that the budget is presented to the public to be finalized. She said that, as Mr. Andes noted, it is the Mayor’s budget and the Council makes the final decisions as to what money and what budget we allocate it to and it is up to Administration to spend it. Mrs. Smith added that they may make a recommendation to increase the Police Department but the Council can’t control that, we can just see that the money is there in the budget. She said that it is a little early in the process but she appreciates everyone coming out tonight.

Councilman Shaw gave a history of how DARE got started and how it came to Denville. Mr. Shaw advised that he received a grant from the University of Southern California where they had a special course called “The Delinquency Control Institute”. He said that he was permitted to go to California, under then-Mayor John O’Keeffe, and take the course. Mr. Shaw noted that it was during the time of the Watts riots in CA. He said that the DARE program began in CA. and he brought it back with him and tried to spread it around the County. Mr. Shaw noted that he had just hired an 18 yr. old kid named Wagner and, under the rules of the Department at that time, if an officer took one drink before they were 21 years old, they were fired. Chief Wagner attested to the truth of that statement. Councilman Shaw further advised that Officer Wagner started the classes in the schools and it has grown. He added that the Mayor didn’t like the program, until the PBA crashed a meeting and minds changed and DARE flourished. Mr. Shaw noted that it has been very successful and has spread throughout the State. He said that it is not perfect but it is a very good start and has been that way for a long time. Mr. Shaw also thanked the residents for coming out tonight.

Councilman Stecky thanked the residents as well and said that he has heard what they have to say. He noted that he remembers the January meeting when DARE was at risk. Mr. Stecky commented that he thinks we need to work to put this back together.
He stated that a zero increase budget is a nice goal and we are certainly inspired to be able to do that. Mr. Stecky noted that the reality is that all we have to work with is a budget that is between 0% and 2%. He commented that we will have to trade off some things; if we need more money for Police officers and the DARE program we will have to take money from someplace else. Mr. Stecky proposed other places from which to take the money such as, not buying the new vehicle for the Fire Department, not doing a skate park. He said that he does not want to pick on any one thing but the people can see the dilemma the Council is in. Mr. Stecky advised that they will have to sort through this and make a hard trade-off and we will surely not make everyone happy.

Mayor Hussa addressed the matter of the skate park. He said that the idea behind it is to have a place for kids to have some productive time. The Mayor noted that the money does not come out of the same budget as the Police budget. He said that is comes out of Open Space so, cutting it is not going to solve this problem at all. The Mayor advised that this park was requested a long time ago and the idea is to provide a place for skate boarders to go, other than the streets and highways.

Administrator Ward advised that several department heads, as well as members of the Police Department, support the park and it will be discussed in the Recreation budget on Saturday. He said that it will provide a place for kids who don’t participate in organized sports to spend productive time and give them less opportunity to get into trouble.

Councilman Golinski also thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their opinions. He thanked the First Aid Squad, Fire Department and Police Department noting that they have helped his family on occasion as well. Mr. Golinski stated that he feels that this discussion is about much more than DARE. He said that, in his opinion, DARE is just a tool in the community’s toolbox to raise healthy and law-abiding citizens. Mr. Golinski made reference to ski trips that he has chaperoned and how the bus lights go out on the way home and kids forget that adults are present so they talk among themselves. He said that he has heard mostly positive and respectful comments when the kids are talking about the DARE officers. Mr. Golinski commented that it takes years to create that special bond that the officers have with the kids. He said that the kids learn to respect the uniform and we need to give the Police the tools to get the job done. He said that he can’t tell the people that we will put DARE in or hire one, two or three officers, but he can say that we will work with the Police the best we can to give them the tools they need. Mr. Golinski stated that he feels that a little bit of prevention will save money down the road.

President Kuser noted that we have heard two things here tonight: DARE and Community Policing. He spoke about how quickly the Police respond to calls for help in all kinds of weather and added that the Fire Department is equally responsive. He said that he thinks we are setting Chief Wagner up to fail if we don’t give him what he needs to do the job. Mr. Kuser stated that the Council is concerned with all of the departments in this building and in the DPW. He said the aim of the Council is the safety of the citizens and making it an even better town and that’s what they are striving for.
President Kuser addressed many of the issues that were brought up this evening and praised the work of all who work with the children. Mr. Kuser said that it is not horrible times and he is tired of hearing about how horrible everything is. He commented that it is not the end of the world and there is no mismanagement in this town, no money is being wasted. Mr. Kuser stated that he likes Chris Christie but he thinks that he needs to go after some of the waste at the State level. He said that this town is run very efficiently but there is always room for cuts. Mr. Kuser stated that he defers to Chief Wagner because he knows what he needs to properly staff his department. He said that someone mentioned finding funds for half of a salary and getting donations for the other half. Mr. Kuser advised that he would like to take a break right now and get some answers to those question. He said that it seems like there is a consensus on the whole Council to work it out. Mr. Kuser noted that he is optimistic that the Chief and Administration will work it out and, if they can't, then the Council will step in and try to help.

Chief Wagner interjected that he is hoping to answer a lot of questions with his presentation.

A brief recess was called by President Kuser at 9:04 p.m. The Meeting re-convened at 9:16 p.m.

President Kuser stated that he wants to get this question answered about getting something done for Riverview School this year. He said that Mrs. Goble and Chief Wagner are both miracle workers and asked them to please see what they can do to help these children out.

Chief Wagner thanked everyone for coming, especially the children who bravely rose and spoke in a venue like this to show their dedication to the DARE program.

Chief Wagner gave a power point presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Chief started with an organizational chart of the Denville Police Department in 1992 and went over the positions and number of officers employed at that time, which totaled 29. He also noted that it was the year that the position of DARE officer was created and he was assigned to that duty.

Chief Wagner then displayed a chart for 2009 showing a total of 35 officers. He noted the difference in assignments and number of officers. The Chief advised that Officer Underwood taught DARE and Officer Torkos is the SRO at the high school. He commented that the only reason they were able to hire a 35th officer is that Morris Knolls High School contributes half of his salary to the Township. The Chief noted that they pay that by contract and the town is bound by contract to fill that position every school day, unless Officer Torkos is in training for his position in the school. He then explained how the shifts are broken up and how many men are on the road.
The Chief moved on to 2010 and explained that in August of that year a traffic officer, Officer Benson, left the Department and Officer Byrne was assigned to the Community Policing Division. He noted that those were two additional spots that had been built by the Council, Administration and Mayor in the early 2000's and we lost them. The Chief advised that everything else remained the same. He commented that last year, when he was two officers short, and was presenting his budget, he was approached by then-Administrator Goble and they discussed the hiring of Police officers. The Chief noted that the time frame for that discussion was about the same as it is now, and things were not as bad at that time. He said that they had reached a commitment to replace those two officers because everyone agreed we needed to get them back on the road. Chief Wagner further explained that Gov. Christie took $660,000 away from our municipal budget two weeks before the budget was going to be proposed. He said that Mrs. Goble came to him and he told her that he would not ask for the new officers due to the new budget crisis. The Chief advised that traffic is his biggest nightmare and that Council people call him every week about every aspect of traffic. He said that he can fix the traffic and get it done, it just may take a little longer. Chief Wagner stated that the second officer would have been the sixth, seventh and eighth grade guy in the schools, in Morris Catholic, Morris County Vo-Tech, speaking to Scout troops and meeting with business groups downtown. He said that he never asked for those officers back.

Chief Wagner went on to say that Lt. Kansky, who was the Patrol Lieutenant responsible for all the patrol officers, retired in November of 2010 and, a week ago, Patrolman Dale retired from the Patrol Division. He said that he has run out of people to be there when an emergency call for a policeman comes in. The Chief advised that the only one left is William Underwood and added that he needs a Patrol Lieutenant and he needs someone to supervise all of the other people. He explained that he moved Sergeant Partin to the Patrol Division and made him Acting Lieutenant of the Patrol Division, but no promotion has been made yet. The Chief explained that when something needs to be done and he does not know where to go with it, it goes to the Community Policing Services supervisor. He said that was the end of the DARE program and he did it. The Chief noted that people will point fingers at him because he ended the DARE program but, he is going to say very clearly that he has an obligation to efficiently and effectively run the Police Department, with the resources provided to him by the Administration and Council. He commented that many people who are here tonight were present three years ago when he made the same decision. The Chief said that he made the difficult decision again because it was the right thing to do for the 16,000 people who live in this town. He advised that it was all that he could do; the decision was to either send a cop to someone’s home to administer CPR or put a cop in the school to teach fifth-graders. The Chief noted that DARE is a critically important job, but not as important as providing emergency services. He said that he only made that decision because he did not have any resources.

The Chief went on to say that on August 13, 2010 he communicated with Administration
and let them know that he was going to lose four police officers in the next seven months. He said that he advised that the first two would not have to be replaced, but not replacing the third guy, would result in the loss of the DARE program; and not replacing the fourth guy will cut into the muscle, bone and blood of the Patrol Division. The Chief advised that he told them that he has to have those two cops on August 13, 2010 - seven months ago. The Chief displayed a chart showing the blanks in the Police Department where officers are missing:

- One blank in Traffic.
- Two blanks in Community Policing.
- One in the Patrol Division.

Chief Wagner stated that, in 1992, there were nine (9) officers inside the Police Department; in 2011 there are also nine (9) cops inside the building. He said that this is important because one of the things that has been suggested to him is that he needs to get creative with all of the “fat” inside the Police Headquarters. The Chief stated that there is no “fat” in the Police Department; he added that he used to have a fourth detective but he got rid of that position to put another man on the road.

Chief Wagner then began his power point presentation. He spoke about the number of calls for service from 1992 to the present and compared the number of officers in each of those years. The Chief added that all the calls are answered, even though the Department is short-handed, because of the dedication of the people on the force.

The Chief then pointed out the growth in Denville since 1992, particularly noting the various multi-family complexes, developments, businesses and school expansions that have been added. He noted that there has been a 40% increase in Denville’s population between 1992 and 2010 and gave a comparison of school enrollment between those years as well. Chief Wagner stated that the increase in enrollment in Morris Knolls High School alone is 48%; he added that is why Officer Torkos spends his whole day there, every day.

Chief Wagner showed a slide depicting the number of arrests from 2007 through 2010, noting that in 2010 there were 2 fewer arrests than in 2009, with two fewer officers and added that one of the 2010 arrests was a murderer, one was aggravated assault and some are sex offenders.

The Chief then displayed the chart of summonses written between 2007 and 2010 which represented an increase of 2,196 in 2010 over 2007.

Chief Wagner commented that last year we had a contract for a little while, which was then taken away and we filled the building with Police officers. He said that officers thought that the Mayor and Council and everyone supported it, but they pulled it away. The Chief stated that his officers then went out and wrote a thousand more tickets this year than last year. He said that there is no “blue flue” here; his officers keep making arrests, writing tickets, doing their job and teaching our kids. The Chief commented that it is quality and character, it is not about the dollar for them, it’s about doing their job. Chief Wagner attributed the 15% reduction in motor vehicle stops between 2009 and
2010 to being short-handed. Chief Wagner stated that people have told him to just take the Community Policing guy and just teach the DARE program, make it happen. He said that the Board of Education has said that they have the money to teach DARE, they just don’t want to. The Chief explained that the DARE program is free, it doesn’t cost a penny. He further explained that the Municipal Alliance Committee gets a grant and, with that grant, they buy DARE workbooks and t-shirts, but the big item is man hours - someone standing in the classroom and teaching. Chief Wagner noted that it is physically, mentally and psychologically draining to spend a day doing it and is harder than being a policeman, but is tremendously rewarding. He said that he is at the point where he can only make so much happen and he feels that he has been responsive and responsible. Chief Wagner then went through the responsibilities of the Community Policing Division and explained each one. He also noted that Codification of our ordinances has been an on-going process for years; he added that we are still not finished but we are close. The Chief advised that it is not being done right now.

Chief Wagner stated that the Council has heard from the residents tonight, the same as they did three years ago. He said that the feedback that he gets is that he does a really good job as Police Chief and he is really proud of being the Chief. The Chief commented that he enjoys the challenge of tough decisions but, he has to make those decisions in the arena of what the Council and Administration supplies him with. Chief Wagner spoke passionately about what the residents want and what he can supply with the resources available to him. He stated that the Council has heard loud and clear what the people want and now he is waiting for the help that the Council and Administration have to provide to him to do it right. The Chief asked that they not ask him to do it half-way.

Chief Wagner moved on to a summary of what was done in 2010. The Chief noted that, since 2008, he is working with a 15.8% reduction in his overall operating budget. He advised that it is only the operating budget and does not include salary and wages.

Chief Wagner stated that the total request for the operating budget for the Police Department for 2011 is $303,594. He thanked Lt. Nigro for coming with him tonight and credited his Secretary, Sue Adams, with doing the lion’s share of the work on this budget. The Chief advised that he provided each Council member, the Administrator and the Mayor with a packet containing the Police budget, the Dispatch budget, the Animal Control budget and the Off-Street Parking budget. He noted that all are operating budgets. The Chief explained the two unavoidable increases in the Police budget as follows:

Contracts and leases - Extended warranty in the amount of $5,500 for in-car camera system came due in 2011.

E-ticketing system at $4,500, which is the advance payment for the electronic tickets which will begin to wash itself out because we no longer have to print paper tickets.
The Chief noted that cuts were made, where possible, but it is a budget that he feels comfortable operating with. Speaking about training, Chief Wagner noted that there is an emergent need for training and equipment for ice rescues. He said there has been no training in cold water rescue and the only equipment available is a throw-rope. The Chief advised that, in the last two years, there have been two fatalities and three separate incidents in the water. He reported that half of his staff, himself included, went, at no cost, to Ocean County and trained in ice rescue. The Chief stated that he will now go out and try to obtain donations to acquire equipment.

Chief Wagner went through his Police budget line by line. The Chief noted that the line for purchase of vehicles is usually the only hotly-contested issue with the Police budget each year. He explained the car-buying schedule over the years and explained that we are now back to buying two cars a year. The Chief advised that the type of vehicle that they have been using is no longer available and he does not know what the price of a new car will be, what is going to be available or when it will be available. In response to a question from Councilwoman Smith, the Chief replied that they are looking into buying a new left-over vehicle. He spoke about the number of cars in the fleet, how they are used and why they are needed.

The Chief advised that, after the fatal crash on Palmer Road, he approached the Denville Rotary for a donation to erect a blinking reflective sign at that curve in the road. He said that Rotary paid $1,500 for the sign, which will be erected shortly, and that he feels it will save lives. The Chief advised that two additional blinking signs have been purchased; a stop sign and a 25 m.p.h. sign. He said that the signs definitely get people’s attention and causes them to slow down; he added that he intends to move it to a different location in town every two weeks. Chief Wagner noted that they are preparing a magnet for the sign in order to adjust the numbers to fit the speed limit in the area that it is being used.

Chief Wagner said that he was advised, with regard to the Capital Budget, to put in only what was really needed. He noted that there was a $37,000 SUV in there to replace his 10 yr. old car that has 96,000 miles on it, but he pulled it out of the budget and said he can live with his old car.

Chief Wagner explained the difficulties inherent to the radios that the Police officers now carry and noted that they only work within a certain radius of the car to which it is tuned. He said that he is looking at a radio system that is identical to that of the Fire Department and includes replacing the radios inside the cars, the portable radios, extended microphones and base station. The Chief advised that it is very difficult to apply to the FCC and get public safety frequencies but the Fire Department may have frequencies that they might turn over to the Police Department. He said that the request is for 2012 but he does not have the complete information as yet and, until he does, he is not ready to commit to it.

Chief Wagner stated that the last item is that he feels we should project out towards the rest of the building addition to the Police Department. He said that we have a design
for a third of the project but he thinks that we need to look to the future and consider the rest of it. The Chief suggested that the Township begin putting money aside so the building could be started within the next couple of years. President Kuser asked if there was a police car in this capital budget. It was explained that police cars are not put in the Capital Budget; it was also noted that two cars are being proposed for this year but not the requested SUV. The Chief said that he can do without the SUV but MUST have both patrol cars.

Mr. Kuser asked how much use the radio truck gets. The Chief replied that it goes out all day, every day.

Councilwoman Smith suggested that Administration may have a vehicle in inventory that might be the way to get the Chief something more up to date. Chief Wagner replied that Mr. Ward had offered him one of the Township’s hybrid SUV’s with 16,000 miles on it. The Chief explained that the vehicles that he buys are specifically built for law enforcement. He said that, in answer to Mrs. Smith’s question, yes, they did explore that possibility but those cars are not a good fit for him. The Chief advised that he needs either a police car or police SUV partly because, if he were to have an accident in one of these other vehicles, it could have an adverse effect on the insurance coverage. He noted that it might be stated that the vehicle was not police-rated.

ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET.
The Chief advised that we entered into a shared services agreement with the Borough of Morris Plains this year. He said that Morris Plains is paying us a flat rate, plus any additional call-outs that Animal Control Officer Petrillo responds to after hours to Morris Plains. Chief Wagner noted that Mrs. Petrillo has been to Morris Plains two or three times, all related to the same incident. He added that he met the Mayor of Morris Plains last night at a meeting and the Mayor is very pleased with the outcome of the agreement. Chief Wagner stated that it is not a very large budget, as compared to the Police budget, but it is what she needs to do her job. Mr. Kuser asked if it is correct that, if there are simultaneous calls in Denville and Morris Plains, a Denville Police officer would have to respond in Denville. The Chief said that is correct but they felt that the town is close enough. He noted that he had received a request from Madison to share Animal Control services but he declined because it’s too far. Mr. Ward interjected that another reason that Morris Plains was deemed a good fit is that their calls for service average out to about three per week.

There was a brief discussion concerning our shared Court with Mt. Lakes and what procedures are followed for an arrest and court appearance.

Councilwoman Smith asked, when our ACO responds to a call in Morris Plains, does a Morris Plains Police officer also respond. The Chief replied that is correct. He added that the incidents that Mrs. Petrillo covers in Morris Plains are minimal whereas, in Denville, she covers every animal control call. He stated that Mrs. Petrillo is superb at her job. The Chief explained that Mrs. Petrillo’s salary is taken from the revenue generated by dog and cat licenses. He advised that donations often come in from deceased residents for animal care and the funds go into a special account to be used
as needed. Chief Wagner explained each of the line items in the Animal Control budget.

**OFF STREET PARKING.**
Chief Wagner explained each line of the budget.

Chief Wagner stated that is then end of his presentation. He said that he understands that this budget is his roadmap for the year and he tried to be as responsible as he could with it.

Councilman Andes had a question about the overhead in the Chief’s office. He asked if there is a way to reduce the number of officers in the building and have some of the administrative work done by civilians.

The Chief replied that the question was asked and answered when Mr. Ward started and they looked at the table of organization. He said that Mr. Ward advised that he was interested in looking at every position to see what everyone does. The Chief noted that the same number of people have been in the building for seven years. He explained that the training requirements have increased greatly in the last few years and he further explained some of the duties of the in-house officers.

The Chief went on to say that the Township used to have two, full-time parking enforcement officers. He noted that one was let go and a part-time officer was hired at a lower salary and without benefits. Chief Wagner advised that the officer writes about 100 tickets a month downtown. He explained that our full-time Enforcement Officer, Wes Sharples, does everything else in the Police Department that a policeman can’t do, such as putting out traffic signs, taking cars to DPW for servicing and numerous other errands that need to be attended to. The Chief advised that he must have a ranking police officer do training, not a civilian, or even a patrolman. He said that they looked at the option of using civilians in headquarters but there is not much there that he could use civilians for.

Mr. Andes asked about the scheduling for vehicle maintenance. Chief Wagner advised that Administrative Sergeant Kazaba has the responsibility to see that all vehicles are properly maintained. He explained the chain of command for taking the cars in for service and that it is ultimately Sgt. Kazaba’s responsibility to see that all vehicles are in good working condition. The Chief added that Sgt. Kazaba is responsible for the “things” side of the house; cars, computers, radios, etc. Mr. Andes asked who Sgt. Kazaba reports to. Chief Wagner replied that he reports to Administrative Lt. Weick, who also supervises all written policies and procedures and supervises all the people on the left side of the Chief’s chart. He added that Sgt. Kazaba also does in-house training which must be done by a police officer because it is law-enforcement training.

Mr. Andes asked if policy writing must be done by a Lt. The Chief replied that it is most helpful to be done by a Lt. because he has the best ability. Mr. Andes asked if some staff positions could be merged. The Chief said they cannot. Mr. Andes asked for a comparison of surrounding towns’ staffing to Denville’s. The Chief replied that Denville is lean; he said that probably one-third of the departments have a buffer of rank
between the Chief and the next rank, a Captain. He added that many have Deputy
Chiefs and some have two Deputies; he gave several scenarios that involve a large
number of staff in the Police Department.
Mr. Andes added, for clarification, that the Chief went to Administration in August with
his requests.
Councilwoman Smith thanked the Chief, his Department, his staff and their families.
Mrs. Smith asked for an updated chart comparing Denville with other towns' staffing.
She said that there are two areas that she wants to ask about; using the County
dispatching system and merging with other Police Departments. Mrs. Smith asked the
Chief to give the Council his thoughts on these two issues.
Chief Wagner replied that the issue of the County dispatch system has been bandied
about for about 18 months. He said that he knows some towns have joined it out of
sheer desperation. The Chief stated that it is too soon to make a determination. He
said that some things have to be given up if the town goes to that system. Chief
Wagner noted that the Police Department has never been locked, day or night but, if we
goto the County, it will be locked at night. He advised that anyone coming to the
building after four p.m. would have to pick up a phone outside the building and be
connected to the dispatcher in Morristown, who would then contact a Denville
policeman to come in off the road to attend to the problem. The Chief noted that he
brought it up at one time but Administration, at that time, was not inclined to discuss it.
He said that there might be a cost savings but, it may not be worth it. The Chief advised
that he spoke with two County officials last night and was told that they are not taking on
anymore towns until the new facility is built. He said that he spoke with Boonton and
Mt. Lakes, who are finding it more expensive than they thought it would be with the
County, about doing their dispatching here in Denville. The Chief noted that he would
gain another day-time dispatcher and they would gain better dispatch services. He said
that his understanding, from some of the people he has spoken to, is that the Fire
Departments like it less than the Police do. The Chief spoke about the catastrophic
condition of one neighboring town and commented that Denville is fiscally responsible
and, therefore, in a good “bubble”. He said that same town has drastically cut its police
force and may have to cut more. The Chief spoke at length about the GEM program,
the Police Departments in surrounding communities and the reduction in the ability to
provide public safety because of fiscal constraints. He encouraged the Council and
Administration to attend a GEM meeting and hear their speaker, Tim Smith.
Mrs. Smith thanked the Chief for his input and agreed that GEM will not save money but
will depersonalize service.
Councilman Shaw relate an incident where a 911 call came in from an individual who
was being murdered. He said that the call was routed to the State Police who called the
number back; the phone was answered by the murderer and the victim bled to death.
Mr. Shaw stated that we have to know what the policies are. Chief Wagner noted that it
Township Council
2-10-11
might have been a glitch. Mr. Shaw said that a car is always sent on a 911 call. Councilman Stecky commented that it is early in the budget process and the Council has its work cut out for it. He said that they will have to make cuts in some places to make up for other places because it has to be balanced. Mr. Stecky noted that the town has been painted into a corner by the 2% cap. Councilman Golinski thanked the Chief for trying to keep the budget as efficient as possible. He asked the Chief for a time-frame to replace signs and asked if we need a full-time sign person.

The Chief advised that the sign man has only been in the Police Department since January 1st, so he hasn’t had a chance to go into it very deeply. He advised that John O’Dell is cross trained in everything else that the other civilian employee is trained in. The Chief said that Mr. O’Dell can put out traffic signs, act as a crossing guard and plows for DPW in the Winter. He noted that he also plans to send Mr. O’Dell to Traffic Control School at Rutgers.

Councilman Andes asked what other responsibilities Mr. O’Dell had before coming to the Police Department. Administrator Ward responded that he would have to check his notes but there were other duties that he performed at the DPW. The Chief noted that, while they are training John in Wesley’s jobs, they are training Wesley in John’s jobs. He added that Mr. O’Dell will make all of the Township signs.

President Kuser commented that the Chief is the most visible person in Denville; Mr. Kuser amended that to Patrolman Sandman being the most visible officer he’s ever seen. He said that he sees him everywhere, so he is either dogging him or their paths cross all the time. The Chief quipped that he has Officer Sandman watching Mr. Kuser.

President Kuser, noting the lateness of the hour, stated that he has learned never to put the police budget on at night, it should always be a Saturday.

President Kuser advised that his concern is that no decision has been made tonight and all of these people are waiting to see what’s going on. He said that, until the 2% cap is in effect, he feels that we are efficient and know what we are going. Mr. Kuser stated that the Chief gave a great argument as to why he needs more officers. He said that he doesn’t know how to run a Police Department and has to defer to the Chief on that matter.

President Kuser asked for a commitment from the Administrator, Mayor and Chief to find a way to complete the DARE program, at least for this year. He said that it may not be possible but, if they get that done, he does not want the Chief to think that all else will then be forgotten. Mr. Kuser noted that, right now, we are in a salary dispute and do not know which way that will go. He said that it could turn out that we will have to lay officers off; we are a step away from being in the same dilemma as the town that the Chief mentioned. He said not only the Police Department, but other Township departments could be decimated. Mr. Kuser commented that, in the meantime, if there is anything that can be done to save DARE, please do it.

The Chief stated that he needs a commitment now to hire two people. He said that he will hire two fantastic people, get them trained and by the middle of May to the end of Township Council

2-10-11
June, Billy Underwood will be teaching DARE in Riverview School. The Chief said that is the only way it can be done.
President Kuser commented that he thinks the Chief knows that it would be difficult for the Council to hire an officer during a salary dispute. He asked if there is a commitment from the Mayor and Administration to do this.
The Mayor replied that he has said before that he is committed to finding a way to do this. Mr. Kuser asked if this has been since August. The Mayor replied, no, we knew about that but all the constraints that have been discussed, the budget uncertainty and the revenue have deterred it. He asked what if we were to get another loss of $400,000 by maybe taking all of the State aid away. It was noted that the contracts still have to be resolved.
The Mayor said that he has made a commitment that he will do everything possible to find a way to do this. He said that they will start talking, as early as tomorrow if the Chief is available, and brainstorm the various options to try and make this happen.
Mayor Hussa stated that he can't guarantee or make the commitment tonight that it is going to happen but they will look for every possible way to make it happen.
The Mayor thanked the Chief for the responsible budget he presented. He added that the dispatch issue was investigated a couple of years ago. The Mayor said that, for the very reasons that were raised tonight, it was decided that we want to have our Police Department user-friendly.
There was a brief discussion regarding DARE, the number of hours required to continue it in Riverview School and the personal responsibilities of the DARE officer.
Administrator Ward commented on the Energy Receipt Tax and noted that we will not know about our State revenue until they decide to notify us.
Councilwoman Smith noted that, until we have the contract negotiations completed and know what the revenue is, there are many things that we can't decide. She asked Administration to check with the State and get a better feel on what we are getting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOVED BY MEMBER ANDES, SECONDED BY MEMBER SMITH
AYES: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Township Clerk