The Meeting was called to order by President Fitzpatrick at 7:32 p.m. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Administrative Assistant Kathy Bowditch. President Fitzpatrick noted that Councilman Kuser may not be able to attend this meeting.

ROLL CALL: GABEL, GOLINSKI, LYDEN, SCOLLANS, SMITH, FITZPATRICK
ABSENT: KUSER

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MAYOR ANDES, ADMINISTRATOR WARD, AUDITOR SARINELLI AND CFO GUARINO

President Fitzpatrick thanked Kathy Bowditch for filling in at the last moment due to the sudden illness of Township Clerk Donna Costello.

President Fitzpatrick noted that tonight we are holding a special hearing on the adoption of the 2013 Municipal Budget. He said that he will open the meeting to the public for anyone who would like to say anything about the budget.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET: No one wished to be heard.
CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.

R-13-92 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2013 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Before calling for a motion on the resolution, President Fitzpatrick asked for statements from the Mayor, Administrator, Auditor and Council members.

Mayor Andes spoke about the budget process and the hard work that went into bringing a sound budget to the Council. He noted that 3/4 of the increase in this budget was the result of increased tax appeals. The Mayor thanked Administrator Ward, CFO Guarino, Auditor Sarinelli and the Council for coming up with a sound budget and said that he certainly endorses it.

Administrator Ward gave a summary of the budget process and noted the following:
All departments came in at, or below, their 2012 operating budgets, with no reduction in services.
There was an overall 1% increase in the budget due principally to a reduction in the ratable base. A loss of $22 million in ratables is the result of tax appeal settlements. New items in the budget include an update to the Environmental Resource Inventory and a new part-time PEO to assist in parking enforcement. The budget contemplates no lay-offs.
With regard to the Capital budget, Administrator Ward advised that a bond ordinance
will be presented at the May 7th meeting. Mr. Ward said that he is proud to announce that the Township has received two grants from the DOT that will be included in the bond ordinance. He advised that one is for the resurfacing of Franklin Rd. in the amount of $240,000 and the other is for the Broadway street-scape project in the amount of $288,000.

Auditor Ray Sarinelli advised that every three (3) years the Division of Local Government Services reviews municipal budgets that have been introduced. He said that this was the year for Denville and the budget has been reviewed and approved by the Division of Local Government Services so the Council can hold the public hearing and adopt the budget tonight. Mr. Sarinelli spoke of the fund balance and noted that the FEMA reimbursement of $292,000 will be taken over a four (4) year period, 25% per year, instead of the entire amount being added to this year’s fund balance. He commented that this is part of the Township’s long-term planning and is a very useful budgeting tool. Mr. Sarinelli noted that the Township is well under the appropriation cap and is right at the levy cap.

CFO Michael Guarino thanked everyone on the dais as well as the Mayor, Administrator and Auditor for their work on the budget and their attention to the explanations of what was being done with the budget. He said that overall it is an extremely tight budget and is very solid. Mr. Guarino commented that this is one of the first times that he has dealt with the State on a budget that went through so quickly.

President Fitzpatrick then entertained comments or questions from the Council. Councilwoman Smith suggested that President Fitzpatrick call for a motion on the resolution, have the motion moved and then take questions.

R-13-92 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2013 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE, COUNTY OF MORRIS THAT THE BUDGET HEREIN BEFORE SET FORTH IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND SHALL CONSTITUTE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSES STATED FOR THE SUMS THEREIN SET FORTH AS APPROPRIATIONS, AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE AMOUNT OF $20,139,393.02. MOTION TO APPROVE R-13-92: MOVED BY MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL

DISCUSSION:
Councilman Scollans stated that it is a wonderful budget and one that he supports. He gave kudos to all who worked on it. Councilman Golinski assured the public that the Council went through every line of the
budget. He stated that he is impressed by the Department heads, Chiefs and the Township employees who “do more with less” and make this kind of budget possible. Mr. Golinski also thanked Administration for the fine leadership they exhibit. Councilwoman Lyden stated that she is very pleased with the budget and thanked everyone for the hard work that went into drafting this budget. Councilwoman Smith commended the Mayor, noting that this is his second budget as Mayor. She said that he did a good job last year and a great job this year. Mrs. Smith spoke about the difficulties that were encountered due to issues over which Administration had no control. She said that the Mayor and his team presented a sound fiscal budget that was arrived at with proper planning and she supports this budget. Mayor Andes replied that their goal was to achieve a zero based budget but the decrease in ratables prevented that goal. He said that the result of this budget is due to good teamwork. Councilman Gabel thanked Administration for putting together a very responsible budget. He said that it was done in a very appropriate way with the cooperation of Department heads and employees and he commends all who were involved. Mr. Gable noted that he supports this budget. President Fitzpatrick thanked Administration as well as the Council members. He said that many questions were asked and the Council did its due diligence on what was a very tight budget from the outset.

ROLL CALL ON ADOPTION OF R-13-92: SMITH, GABEL, LYDEN, GOLINSKI, SCOLLANS, PRESIDENT FITZPATRICK
ABSENT: KUSER

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOVED BY MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: KUSER

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Municipal Clerk