TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Golinski. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Deputy Township Clerk Kathy Costello. Mrs. Costello noted that this is a non-smoking facility and requested that all cell phones be silenced at this time.

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

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

Open Public Portion: No one wished to be heard.

Close Public Portion.

Budget Discussion

President Golinski complimented Administrator Ward and CFO Guarino for their fine work in putting together the budget books for the Council. He said that the books made it very easy to go through the budget.

Mayor Andes noted that Administration felt comfortable with the budget as it was presented. However, after listening to the Council’s comments and suggestions at last night’s meeting, a couple of modifications to the budget are being suggested tonight. The Mayor advised that, on the capital side of the budget, they are including the Dog Washing Station and the Generator for Valley View Firehouse. Administrator Ward distributed a sheet explaining the revisions in the operating budget and CFO Guarino distributed a replacement sheet for the capital budget. He noted that the two items that are being added to the capital budget are being funded by utilizing the capital fund reserve and will not impact the amount that needs to be raised this year for down payments.

Administrator Ward explained that, through some outstanding FEMA reimbursements, the Township will potentially have a revenue increase of $11,617.00, which will equate to a $1.60 reduction in the tax impact to the average taxpayer.

Mr. Ward advised that, due to the precipitous decrease in the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel last year, the Township spent considerably less on fuel than the amount that was budgeted. He said that Administration feels comfortable with decreasing the appropriation for gasoline by $15,000, which will result in a $2.07 reduction in the tax impact to the average taxpayer.

Mr. Ward noted that the total of $3.67 will bring the municipal tax increase this year down to just 2% over last year.

The Council then posed questions regarding various aspects of the budget including the cost of bonding, short term notes, the decrease in recycling revenue, use of additional
funds from the fund balance and the reduction in grant funds. Each question or concern of the Council was addressed by Administrator Ward and CFO Guarino. There was a brief discussion regarding a portion of the Board of Education staff potentially occupying space in the Municipal Building. The fund balance was discussed and explained in detail by CFO Guarino. There was a request to look into acquiring the MSA Gas Text/Calibrate machine for the Fire Department. Administrator Ward said that we can probably do a down payment at the end of this year and make the final payment in January.

President Golinski asked for a consensus from the Council to support the budget as it is now presented:

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Mayor Andes noted that Administration would like to introduce the budget in early March, as opposed to later in the month. He suggested that any remaining questions from the Council be asked at the next meeting. The Mayor advised that Administration would like to introduce the budget at the March 3rd meeting. President Golinski commented that at the February 17th meeting he will ask the Council if there are any additional questions on the budget. He said that he will do that during the “Matters of Old and/or New Business” portion of the meeting. President Golinski urged the Council members to e-mail any questions they may have to CFO Guarino or Administrator Ward either Thursday or Friday because Monday is a holiday. There was unanimous agreement that the Council would support the budget with the proposed revisions.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Township Clerk