

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING – February 1, 2024**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mueller, Deputy Mayor V. Panico, Mr. J. Albanese, Mr. J Heller

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Chief Financial Officer Donna Mollineaux

ABSENT: Mr. J. Huelsebusch

2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- **Environmental Commission**

Robert Becker, Chair of Environmental Commission, stated the purpose of the Environmental Commission and reviewed the requests within the budget. Mr. Becker spoke to the request for a Raritan Valley Community College intern to assist with support projects, such as forest and meadow resilience and sustainability.

- **Historic Preservation**

Patricia Fisher Olsen, Chair of Historic Preservation Commission, reviewed the successful investment of the \$5,000 provided in the 2023 budget, highlighting the importance of Taylors Mill in preparation of the America's 250th celebration in 2026. Ms. Olsen requested the same budget of \$5,000 for 2024 to apply for a historic preservation fund grant for the creation of a preservation plan and the ability to match grant requests.

- **Board of Health**

Danielle Monaghan, Board of Health secretary, reviewed the proposed line items in the Board of Health budget and explained the expenditures in the soil log and testing line item.

- **Office of Emergency Management**

.Chris Szymanski, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed his prior budget and the request to expand the budget to include a line item for personal protection equipment and uniforms. Mr. Szymanski reviewed his request for capital, stressing the need for a mobile command center for public safety and emergencies. The Committee discussed reviewing American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to purchase the mobile command center equipment.

- **Police**

James Curry, Director of Public Safety, reviewed the 2023 calls for service and motor vehicle stops and summons, and summarized the expenditures of the budgeted line items to achieve the objectives of the Police Department. Mr. Curry reviewed the 2024 list of proposed capital projects to include patrol/administration Suvs, an emergency service utility vehicle, motorcycle, office trailer and equipment. Mr. Curry also addressed the need for additional staffing in the department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

Mayor Mueller announced that the next budget meeting will take place on February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made at 9:01 p.m. by Mr. Heller to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted:

Karin M. Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk