

APPROVED AS AMENDED: August 28, 2023

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
BUDGET SESSION #2
March 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President Mandel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Gawas, Geevers, Mandel, Stevens, Whitfield

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on, February 18, 2022.

ATTENDEES: President: Mandel; Council: Gawas, Geevers, Stevens, Whitfield; Business Administrator: Schmid; Chief Financial Officer: Mauder; Township Clerk: Huber

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Huber led the salute to the flag.

Department of Public Works

Tony Esposito, Superintendent of Public Works provided an overview of each of the four Divisions under the Public Works Department. He advised during a snow storm other Division personnel assist in snow removal if necessary. Mr. Esposito noted the Operating Expense budget for Public Works and Sewer System remained flat from 2022. He noted a slight increase of 4.71% in the Facilities and Open Space Operating Expense budget under the Services and Maintenance Contracts line item.

Mr. Esposito provided an update on the One Arm Leaf truck advising the body is in production and hope to have delivery in 30-60 days. He noted the new dump truck should arrive in the next 60 days and the new garbage truck is still in the production line.

Mr. Esposito reviewed his Capital Improvement Requests for 2023:

- Remote Monitoring @ Pump Stations - \$66,500.00 He advised staff will be able to review from the office and from their cell phones. He noted however, this does not replace an employee.
- Pickup Truck Replacement - \$108,000.00 for two new F350 Trucks to replace 2003 and 2008 trucks.
- Dump Truck Replacement - \$220,000.00 for one new Dump Truck in 2023 which replaces a 2007 truck. This is a multi-use vehicle.
- Mason Dump Replacement - \$80,000.00 for one new Mason Dump to replace a 2009 truck. This truck includes a snow plow package used to haul materials (stone, mulch, etc.) and to tow trailers.
- Combination Truck - \$685,000.00 to replace a 2009 vehicle which is used for jetting and cleaning sewer and stormwater systems.
- Field Lining Paint Striper - \$21,000.00 to replace an old machine.
- Public Works Buildings General Improvement - \$25,000.00 is an annual request.
- Sanitary Sewer Improvement Program - \$250,000.00 is an annual amount for emergency service repairs.
- Public Works Storm Sewer Improvements - \$20,000.00 for storm water sewer improvements.

Mr. Stevens inquired on whether there is a need for storm water expansion.

A short discussion ensued regarding this topic. Mr. Esposito addressed Council's concerns.

Members of Council noted their appreciation for all the hard work the Public Works staff does, especially during bad weather events.

Department of Public Safety

Fire and Emergency Services Division

Chief Timothy Lynch introduced himself advised he oversees the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, Fire Marshall, Emergency Management and two volunteer fire companies. He noted during 2022 the receipt of a new fire truck for the West Windsor Volunteer Fire Company, continued upgrades to the Fire and Emergency Services building, and implementing a new hiring process. Chief Lynch noted they are working on a new training program for the volunteer fire companies; updating the emergency management plan; forming an Emergency Management Council; working with the volunteers of Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Company on a new engine which was approved in the 2021 Capital budget; working on a new layout of units within the division. He reviewed the role and responsibility of the Emergency Management Council and who would be appointed to it.

Discussion ensued as to when this committee would be appointed. Chief Lynch advised Council he still needs five additional members and then he would speak to the Mayor to have these appointments made.

Ms. Geevers noted her appreciation for his reports for Planning Board applications.

Mr. Stevens inquired about fire inspections and the status of those throughout the community.

Chief Lynch advised they have about 1,300 business in the Township and 200 of them are considered "life hazard" and are inspected every year. 1,100 "non-hazard" have not been done completely in a decade.

Discussion over the fees charged for yearly inspections took place and if the Township should increase these fees.

Chief Lynch advised the Township is currently one of the highest in the County.

Mr. Mauder advised discussion about personnel and reorganization will happen at next Tuesday's budget meeting.

Chief Lynch advised the Supplemental Fire Services Program had no increase and the Uniform Fire Code had a small increase for software upgrades. He noted Emergency Services increased due to PEOSHA requirements for yearly physicals for Hazmat Teams.

Discussion ensued over physicals for volunteer fire fighters and what is needed to be compliant.

Chief Lynch advised the other increase is to fund two volunteer firefighters to go through EMT Training if they so choose.

Discussion continued over providing this training and how it will work.

Chief Lynch advised both volunteer fire companies that the annual contribution for \$75,000.00 is part of the 2023 budget.

President Mandel advised the volunteer fire companies both receive \$75,000.00 which was increased by this Council a couple of years ago. Our volunteer fire companies are extremely important and need our continued support. She noted the Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Company building is owned by the Township and the West Windsor Volunteer Fire Company is owned by the company and wondered if there is a way to help them more.

Chief Lynch advised all equipment for both volunteer fire companies are covered by the Township.

Chief Lynch reviewed the capital requests as follows:

Replacement of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) -
\$75,000.00

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Firefighters -
\$50,000.00

Replacement of Rescue 43 - \$1,000,000.00

New Inspector Vehicles - \$80,000.00

General Improvements for the Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Company - \$25,000.00

Sprinkler System Replacement - Station 43 - \$175,000.00

After a short discussion Council agreed to move this project forward to the 2023 Capital Budget.

General Improvements for Fire & Emergency Services Facility - \$25,000.00

Furniture & Equipment for EOC - \$50,000.00
Council took a break at 11:40 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:52 a.m.

Police Division

Chief Garofalo introduced himself and advised West Windsor Township has the best police department and staff and their achievements have surpassed his goals for the department. He is very proud of the officers and staff who perform their jobs well. Chief Garofalo advised the officers need the tools to continue to provide this level of service to the community.

President Mandel noted the community is very appreciative of the Township Police officers.

Chief Garofalo reviewed his operating budget for Council advising the following line items have increases due to rising costs: 230 Physicals, 272 Training/Education, 208 Communication Equipment Maintenance; 276 Uniform Cleaning; 278 Vehicle Repair; 424 Vehicles.

Discussion ensued between the Chief and Council Members as to the various increases to include the new training mandates for Police officers. He advised the new licensing will be in place by the end of the year.

Discussion over the purchase of police vehicles and the problems they are having getting new vehicles delivered. This increases the cost of the maintenance line item.

Mr. Mauder reported the Animal control budget stayed flat for 2023.

President Mandel inquired about what pedestrian crossing intersections within the Township the Chief feel needs to have additional pedestrian improvements done.

Discussion ensued between the Chief and Council members on this matter and how to proceed and what tools are already in place within the Township and what locations the police would suggest.

Chief Garofalo addressed this issue advising he would work with the Engineering Division on this matter.

President Mandel requested an additional \$20,000.00 for Engineering capital item 2023-14c. to evaluate and improve crosswalk placement and efficiency.

Capital Projects

Lt. Mohr reviewed the 2023 capital budget items as follow:

- Technology - \$62,600.00 to continue to upgrade current systems. Mr. Mauder advised the balance currently in this account is \$110,000.00
- Software Project - \$10,260.00
- Digital Mugshot/Livescan System Replacement - \$75,000.00
- Security Systems Upgrade Project - \$10,000.00
- DWI and DB Interview Rooms Axon System - \$10,000.00
- Radio System Replacement of radio systems for fire dispatch. This is part of a four (4) year upgrade - \$27,000.00
- Facility Situational Awareness Program - \$100,000.00
- Communications Center Upgrades (dispatch upgrades) - \$10,000.00
- Multi-Task and Surveillance Solution - \$199,262.00

Discussion ensued between Council, Lt. Mohr and Chief Garofalo on how the program works and who is responsible for what equipment for this program.

- SUV Replacement - \$105,840.00
- Replacement of Firearms and Related Equipment - \$54,000.00
To have red dot sights added to pistols

- Replacement of Portable Radios - \$20,000.00
- Replacement of Emergency Equipment for Patrol Vehicles - \$50,000.00
- MDT Replacement - \$42,000.00
- General Improvements - \$25,000.00

Mr. Stevens thanked the police for the use of the traffic equipment on Fisher Place recently and the data received was interesting. He noted the residents were very appreciative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, noted each year there is \$80,000.00 for salt and sand and suggested an inventory be done. He noted his concerns about the sprinkler system for the volunteer fire company and whether it needs to be replaced. Mr. Church also advised interest rates are going up and cautioned Council on their spending.

Mr. Mauder advised the salt dome is kept full at all times, and any funds not used in the current year are moved to the Storm Trust Fund at the end of the year.

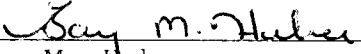
President Mandel advised, due to career personnel being at the West Windsor Firehouse and maintenance costs there, the sprinkler system had to be replaced.


Mr. Stevens reviewed why it is necessary to have a sprinkler system in the firehouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Stevens
Second: Gawas
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.


Gay M. Huber
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township


Andrea Mandel
Council President
West Windsor Township

