

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Patricia Cregar, and Committee members Tim Mathews and Dart Sageser. Committee member Linda Lenox was absent. Township Administrator Timothy L. Matheny was also in attendance.

CFO/Treasurer Kathryn Monzo was present for this meeting.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, a copy of notice of this meeting was filed in the Clerk's Office, posted on the bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, and Star Ledger on January 24, 2012. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with the CFO/Treasurer and Township Administrator to discuss the 2012 budget.

The public is invited to attend and comment. Action may or may not be taken.

Mayor Kneski thanked Ms. Monzo for her previous work in keeping the tax rate flat. Ms. Monzo did not make any changes yet and will do so when more information is received. Mayor Kneski received an email from the baseball league about their capital requests, which Mr. Matheny agreed to copy for the rest of the committee; representatives from the league will be here tonight to present.

Mr. Mathews had some questions, including the following:

- On page 2, with salary and wage increases shown for both 2% and 1%, can the Committee be selective or do they increase "across the board"; Ms. Monzo said it was up to the Committee's discretion, but historically, they have been across the board. The Clerk noted, however, that the Township Committee did not take pay increases for many years. Ms. Monzo will adjust the figure on the salary sheet.

- Under Legal, Audit, and Engineering, budgets were requested and historically spent. He suggested that, while not the right time this evening, some consideration be given to going out for competitive bid for professionals for next year.

- Mr. Mathews suggested that time was ripe for a discussion with Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board members regarding a combination of boards, with the Boards providing bullet points for and against merging. He felt that the comments by Ms. Cunningham on putting \$10,000 in the budget to cover a potential lawsuit for a decision made by another board "drove home" the consideration. Mr. Sageser explained that it was actually a pending issue with the Board of Adjustment that "might go a fair distance," noting consolidation may have merits and disadvantages. Mayor Kneski agreed, saying that each board's budget stands alone and does not overlap; he mentioned drawbacks with consolidation, noting that efficiency was one reason boards do merge.

- On page 18, Mr. Mathews asked about "reimbursement by local employer"; Ms. Monzo said that it was reimbursement for part of the health care expenses for the shared court employee. Mr. Sageser asked about shopping for health care. Ms. Monzo explained that NJ State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) offers a multitude of packages, and East Amwell chose one or two lower end premium plans with standard coverage. She commented favorably on working with SHBP to handle the intricacies of health care; if the Township chose to shop elsewhere, she suggested that they do it early in the year. Mr. Sageser asked about getting comparisons from other groups, and Ms. Monzo suggested that a broker would be able to shop them - she did not think there was a fee for comparisons, but there would be one for management. She said that they could look for a broker over the summer, if the Township wanted to do so, so that coverage options would be in place by November.

- On page 16, Mr. Mathews asked about the 15% reduction in assessment in risk; Ms. Monzo said that this was the figure provided by the insurance company.

- Under the revenues category, Mr. Mathews asked about revenues and expenses, such as police and animal control licensing, and how is it resolved in the budget. Ms. Monzo said that revenue comes in but there is no one sheet for offset shown in the budget. The overall intent is that revenues exceed expenses. Mr. Matheny spoke with the Court Administrator for more information on court revenues. She stated that the amount of revenue from the Raritan Township

shared services agreement was around \$15,000, covering expenses, but not by a whole lot. The \$15,000 is part of the \$30,000 shown as court revenue in the budget. The governing body gets monthly court reports showing the breakout of receipts, but getting exact information from the tickets about revenue from Raritan would have to be calculated by hand since each ticket has different charges/costs. Mr. Mathews asked about going forward with the tickets, i.e., could a spreadsheet be prepared by the Court Administrator to provide the revenue information to determine if the Township is making, for example, \$100 or \$5,000. Mr. Matheny also noted that not all of the 2011 tickets have been adjudicated yet, so when reports come in they are a "monthly snapshot" of revenues and expenses. Mr. Mathews concluded that what he wanted to see is whether the return on the \$15,000 expense was 1% or 10%. Mr. Sageser also commented on renegotiating the contract or looking elsewhere for a shared service. Mr. Matheny explained that this past year was the first full year under the Raritan Township agreement, and there is no contract yet in place for 2012 since they are still working on their budget. He also mentioned recent layoffs on the force and in their DPW. A letter was sent to Raritan Township indicating that East Amwell wishes to continue patrols under the old contract.

- Mr. Mathews commented on the ACO agreement that will be discussed on Thursday night. Mr. Sageser asked where that would be located in the budget. Ms. Monzo said that licensing fees are placed in a trust, and animal control expenditures come from the trust and are not shown in the budget. She agreed that she would do an analysis of fees v. expenditures.

Amwell Valley Ringoes Rescue Squad: Present for this discussion was John Seramba, 111 John Ringo Road, the accountant for the squad; Barbara Pante, Route 31, Treasurer; Peter Molnar, Rainbow Hill Road, Chief.

Mayor Kneski recused himself from discussions and turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Cregar.

Mr. Seramba provided three copies of the 2012 preliminary budget for review (copy attached to original set of minutes). He highlighted various categories on the sheet, also noting that the squad recently bought a used ambulance, and the majority of equipment is over 15 years old. He spoke about new chasses being needed for ambulances. He mentioned a request made last year about being added to the Township's Worker's Compensation coverage, noting a \$21,000 expense for insurance coverage. Mr. Seramba said that their entire budget was \$389,000. There is only \$140,000 left in the bequest made to the squad since it was used to purchase a used ambulance. The parking lot and roof need to be repaired, and the squad is "in dire straights."

Mr. Seramba contacted Hunterdon County Clerk Mary Melfi about getting a referendum to have a separate tax for the squad. He will need to get 310 voter signatures in East Amwell, and since it has partial coverage in Raritan Township, they may also need to get over 500 signatures there. While they also serve in other municipalities, Mr. Seramba thought that only the host towns would have to vote on the referendum. He will also meet with Raritan Township Mayor King about this matter. He explained that the referendum question is a long process and may not occur this year.

Mr. Seramba also asked last year to have information put in the tax bill mailer to support the squad.

The squad will hold a fundraiser in the spring, and the members are applying for grants, which won't be available until September or October. The squad would like Ms. Lenox (who is also liaison to the squad) to assist by reviewing the grant applications since she has had experience in that field.

Mr. Seramba noted that the Township has provided the squad with \$29,000 over the past several years and again noted the difficult financial times that they are experiencing. He reminded the governing body that the squad has a good call record with nighttime coverage and response time of less than 10 minutes.

Mr. Mathews asked if it was a fact that the squad does not take insurance reimbursements. Ms. Pante said that the squad does not charge for services, noting that the squad is happy with what they can do and what they have without charging. She stated that they would like to have items, such as a new lighter weight "jaws of life" tool and a new roof on the building. Mr.

Seramba noted that a paid squad would entail such things as payroll, increased budget, etc.; he felt that there are many citizens in East Amwell who would find it difficult to pay for services.

Mr. Seramba commented on the lawsuit "that drained cash ... and hurt [the squad] for the future." He also mentioned the Township's budget for the squad, which used to be \$29,000 for OE and \$28,000 for capital expenses. He has asked Steve Kalafer to donate a chassis for the ambulance. Ms. Pante mentioned purchasing a used ambulance "which was okay ... and safe." Mr. Seramba asked the governing body for an increase to their budget, help with the Workers Compensation coverage, and provision of information in a tax bill mailing about donations. For the record, the Clerk indicated that there was information about donations to the squad and fire company in last year's tax bill. Information was solicited from the insurance company about Workers Compensation last year, but it was obtained after the 2011 budget was in place. The information was provided to the former Treasurer and Mayor at that time and also given to the new Treasurer and Mayor for their information. The insurance company needed the number of full time and part time members to calculate a cost. Ms. Pante will provide a copy of the squad's insurance policy for the Township's agent to review.

Ms. Monzo asked to see the squad's financials; Mr. Seramba is working on current figures and hoped to have them before the end of budget season. He also noted that he did provide the previous year's information, which showed a \$90,000 loss at that time.

Mr. Matheny spoke about his experience with billing for services but not going to the extent of collections. Ms. Pante mentioned her 30 years of service, noting that insurance companies will want to see books and information on second notices and collections, and she did not wish to see this happen, especially with seniors. Mr. Seramba said that he sees this happening with Flemington-Raritan since they now bill because donations went down. Ms. Pante provided an example of another town's squad member who used services and was hounded by collections thereafter.

Some discussion took place about calls, and Ms. Pante said that there were 300-500 calls last year (90% East Amwell residents), with a census done each month. Auto accidents, including out of town vehicles, were mentioned.

Ms. Pante again asked for assistance in reviewing their grant applications, noting any governing body member could volunteer their time to do so.

Mr. Sageser mentioned the \$29,000 historically given to the squad; Mr. Seramba noted that it was about 9-10% of their income. Mr. Seramba will get financial information for the governing body to review. Mr. Mathews asked about the math of the percentage that would go out for a tax levy referendum; Ms. Monzo will get this information. Mr. Seramba explained that the fire tax is 2%, and the squad was not looking for that much. Mr. Mathews suggested getting information before the primary. Mr. Seramba will get further information on the question and advise the governing body.

Mayor Kneski returned to the meeting at this time.

Summer Playground: Ad Hoc Committee member Kathy Veith was present at this time. Mr. Mathews and Mr. Matheny were also part of the ad hoc committee.

Ms. Veith explained that a survey was done of all parents last year with one survey per family. There was a 37% response with 36% response only from the 5 - 8 grade population since the program is not as popular at that age level. The surveys showed that 96% were willing to pay something. The committee realizes that the program would have to be changed to address safety issues. She concluded that many people felt that it was a valuable program and asked for financial support in the budget as a transitional year while collecting some fees to "see how it works."

The committee referenced page 34 in the budget packet. On a question to Deputy Mayor Cregar about the senior budget, she spoke with Adele Kline, the Treasurer of the group, who is getting information within a week on what they spent last year and what they are requesting this year.

The summer playground budget was shown as \$4800 for salaries and \$1200 for other expenses. On a question about the \$342 expenditure against the \$1200 budget last year, Mr. Matheny explained that previous directors used their full line items to pre-purchase items for subsequent years; last year, this did not happen.

Mr. Sageser asked for information on the program, and Ms. Veith provided an overview of a three hour program per day with activities including arts and crafts, games, movies, physical education, etc. for a population of mostly grades 1 - 4. Mr. Mathews was encouraged with the response from parents and their commitment to help fund. Reducing the program from 5 to 4 weeks will be helpful. The ad hoc committee is looking at other options also, e.g., payment by sponsors and looking at universities for "kids learning education" participation or work study options.

Mr. Matheny reminded the governing body that the program is under the auspices of the Township, not the school or PTO, and therefore, directors would be township employees. While the program used to be run by the school teachers, this is not necessarily the case any more (mentioning issues of getting directors last year); he recommended that the directors have background checks/fingerprinting. He also spoke about the insurance company's ratio of about 1 adult to 14 - 20 children as a safety factor, while the program was 1 to 25 in reality. Reducing the program from 5 to 4 weeks may allow for hiring another director, and he also felt that there should be more compensation to a leader who would do administrative work, e.g., collecting funds once it is decided how payments would be collected and apportioned.

Mayor Kneski agreed that the program had to be re-established; Mr. Matheny agreed that improvements were needed because of the safety concerns, liability and checking on the children. Mr. Mathews talked about trimming the program to four weeks, offsetting with payments from families, and mechanics on organizing the process. He spoke about keeping funding the same, and if the program does not work out, it would be over. Ms. Veith agreed that she would like to have the chance to proceed this year, noting that people were willing to pay, that they know improvements are necessary, and more money may be needed in the future. Committee members were in favor of funding again this year, and Mr. Sageser asked if more funding was necessary. Ms. Veith commented on proper child to teacher ratio and safety issues to address, stating that it would not be the same as past programs, but she wanted to see it happen. Deputy Mayor Cregar asked how much more the lead would be paid, e.g., \$100? Mr. Matheny said it would have to be determined and that they would have to see what revenue came in, but it must cover the program.

Mayor Kneski appreciated the work of the ad hoc committee and agreed that the governing body would like to continue on the pilot program for this year, noting extra finance may be required. However, since revenue numbers are not yet available, this line item will be reviewed again for possible increase. He agreed that "the program is needed and serves a great purpose for the community." Mr. Mathews felt that even if the budget was flat, with the projection of contributions, he was in favor of moving ahead. The Committee thanked Ms. Veith for her work and presentation.

Amwell Valley Little Baseball League: Present for this discussion were Clark Williard, 165 Lindbergh Road, and Chuck Bacon, 20 Harvest Hill Drive, representing the Board. Mr. Mathews also noted that he is on the Board. The president of the League will be decided at a meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Williard said that there were 144 players last year with about 1/3 of the children from East Amwell School. The non-profit keeps its fees as low as possible with less than \$100 per player – fees are kept low to encourage participation. The fees do not cover umpire fees and regular season uniforms. The league did capital improvements last year at a cost of \$25,000 for school field work, installation of batting cages at the school, and expanding the infield of T-1 on the municipal property; these improvements depleted reserves. The league depends on sponsorship and the summer tournament as additional revenue. Mr. Bacon said that the tournament participants are declining because of fees to play and availability of other tournaments. The league pays the costs associated with the tournament for their own players, and if the players go elsewhere for tournaments, the individuals pay their own costs.

Mayor Kneski referenced the cost analysis provided by the league, including \$18,200 for municipal fields and \$26,000 for the school fields. He asked if the league considered asking the school for assistance for their fields; Mr. Bacon said that the Treasurer would be meeting with them. Mr. Bacon also noted that the cost of batting cage nets (\$3,200) could be spread over two to four years, if preferred. On a question about the school fields, Mr. Bacon said that the 13 – 15 year old teams and the softball teams play there. Mayor Kneski said that he would like to focus on spending Township funds on municipal fields and look at spans of improvements over several years.

Mr. Williard said that the snack shack was a priority. Mr. Bacon explained that expenditures have increased while donations have decreased, and he did not have any information about sponsorships. The ice machine in the snack shack provides cold packs and has been repaired four times already. Costs to repair the scoreboard are more than buying a new one (\$5,000). Dugout roofs are in poor condition also (\$1,500). Renovations to the firehouse field are also necessary as a safety issue, which the league is dealing with itself. Mayor Kneski asked about the ice machine, i.e., just for injuries or for concessions also; Mr. Bacon said it was also used for chilling drinks, not for consumption. Mayor Kneski felt that municipal funds should be used for items such as bleachers, dug outs, score boards, etc., and revenue from the concession should be used for concession items.

Mr. Sageser asked about the DPW doing the work on the dugout; Mr. Matheny said that they are capable of the work, but their schedules do not allow extra work, especially in nice weather when the work would have to be done. Ms. Monzo said that the money for recreational fields could come from the broadly defined use of the Open Space Trust Fund; however, the money could not be used for school fields. She will get information on what funding is available and the purpose of the fund. Mayor Kneski again suggested meeting with the School for money for those fields.

Mr. Mathews asked about mowing fields. Mr. Bacon said that last year the league to have it mowed twice a week. The DPW does mow outside the fences. Mr. Matheny said that mowing is part of the shared services agreement with the school; however, last year, the janitor who was supposed to mow was laid off in the summer. Mr. Mathews asked about using Open Space Trust Fund money for mowing the ball fields by an outside contractor or the school employee from March to June, noting the transfer for Clawson Park mowing in this account. Mr. Matheny explained that the transfer is to assess regular payroll hours for the DPW to the trust fund in order to keep other expenses down.

Mayor Kneski concluded that no decision would be made tonight, that the information from the league will be reviewed, and information will be gathered about how to use the Open Space Trust Fund and the amount available to try to help.

The Committee thanked the league representatives for their presentation this evening.

Deputy Mayor Cregar commented on the rescue squad's request earlier in the evening, noting that she would be surprised if people did not make large donations after they've used their services, commenting anecdotally on her family's use of services.

Tax Assessor's Budget: Tax Assessor Marianne Busher was present for this discussion.

Ms. Busher's January 31, 2012, memo asking for funding for reassessment purposes was briefly discussed at the February 1 budget meeting, and it was agreed that further information should be obtained from her. Ms. Busher explained that there are indicators that the governing body may want to take action with the ratio going up. She spoke about incremental changes in the ratio since the last revaluation in 2005, i.e., 95%, and since 2008, 97%, 97.3%, and 100.53% (current ratio). Of 33 properties on the multiple listings, 64% of them are under assessed in value. Ms. Busher spoke about declining property exposure, significant tax appeals, and refunding tax dollars that the Township did not collect.

Ms. Monzo explained that the Township is responsible for collecting more than the municipal component of taxes, i.e., they are responsible for collecting school and county taxes, which must be paid, collected or not. The Township is also responsible for refunds of taxes for successful appeals. Mayor Kneski asked about trends in appeals. Ms. Busher said that there were 16 last year, with 8 of them successful. Prior year appeals were 16 in 2009, and 12 in 2008. Ms.

Busher also spoke about information all over about refinancing at lower rates and lower appraisals and “usable sales” for the appeals.

Mr. Sageser asked about a mechanism for specific areas; Ms. Busher said that she would be unable to make spot assessments. She explained that she considered a compliance plan at the end of 2011, when 49% of the line items could be changed and shift the burden to the remaining 51%; she decided against this process.

Ms. Busher also noted that her request for \$7,500 was for inspections of 25% of the houses in the municipality; this has now changed since she received information from the state that 100% of the houses must be inspected the first year. Ms. Monzo explained that the cost for the 100% inspection could be considered a special emergency (i.e., a potential cost of \$38,000) not budgeted; payment can be deferred up to five years after the emergency. A resolution would be needed to approve the special emergency for x amount of dollars for the reassessment and paid out 1/5 each year afterwards through the current fund or through taxation. Borrowing money as a capital ordinance is also permitted.

Mr. Mathews asked about proportioning the cost to use open space funding for farmland inspections. Ms. Monzo would have to get an opinion but she believed that it was probably not allowed since it was not related to maintenance, development, or acquisition.

Mr. Sageser asked about the compliance plan, and Ms. Busher noted difficulties she would have in determining the assessments of the 49% because of the challenges with the different housing stock in the township. She explained the need for a fair assessment in the township, including a lower assessment in properties with an increase in tax rate, which can be appealed.

Mayor Kneski asked about financing the reassessment, either by one fifth in the budget over the next five years or by a bond ordinance. Ms. Monzo said that a decision wasn't necessary now, but the governing body should think about it. It could be a capital expenditure, and the municipality has a low borrowing rate with most bonds used for open space. She also felt that paying one fifth at around \$7,500 or \$8,000 for inspections could be done over a five year period without borrowing.

Mr. Mathews spoke about bond principal variables; Ms. Monzo explained that you can change rates on bond anticipation notes, but other obligations are set and depend on the structure.

Some discussion took place on the possibility of appeals. Ms. Busher explained that residents have until April 1 to appeal, and she will have a better idea by then, including any possible commercial appeals that could come through. Last year, \$10,000 was returned on the 8 successful appeals. Ms. Monzo noted that the budget effect includes the refund of the taxes and a change in the base for setting the tax rate – the decision then would be to increase the tax rate or cut elsewhere. Ms. Busher stated that taxes should be the same even if the rate goes up. Mr. Sageser asked about the 2% cap being based on the tax rate, and he was told that was correct.

Mr. Sageser asked about assessments on solar panels on commercial farms. Ms. Busher provided anecdotal information about a solar installation in Raritan Township where taxes are based on the ground lease and/or purchase of property, not on the SRECs. Mr. Mathews suggested that a revenue tax could be placed on the solar production as a franchise tax. He also mentioned money coming back to the township in roll backs for two years, which begin once the property changes use (i.e., when the farming stops, as in the case of the Everitt property).

Mr. Mathews asked how long it would take for the reassessment; Ms. Busher said that the inspections would be done first and funding would be necessary to cover the cost. She thought that it would be done in 2013. Mr. Sageser asked what would happen if property values move back up; Ms. Busher said that the reassessment would be good for four years and values could be changed at that time. Further comments were exchanged, including getting values in line with reality but avoiding appeals, whether a reassessment is warranted or not, the intent to create fairness for all, the perception by the residents that their values are lower than they had believed, etc. Ms. Busher said that she could apply for the reassessment by April 1 and withdraw the request. She said that the problem was that she could not wait until June to inspect 1300 properties and needed to line an inspector up. Ms. Busher will do the data entry and analysis.

Mr. Mathews asked for the cost of the reassessment be included in the next updated worksheets and options for either to pay over the five year span or to bond. An application to the Division of Taxation must be made for the reassessment by April 1 and can be withdrawn thereafter. There was a consensus of members in attendance that Ms. Busher prepare the application for submission and revisit it in a timely fashion; if it is determined that a reassessment is not needed, the application will be withdrawn. Ms. Busher will get some quotes for the inspections, and if it exceeds the bid threshold, the work will be put out for bid.

Mr. Mathews asked about the line item for tax maps in the Assessor's budget; the budget sheet was prepared before the final bill was received from the surveyor, and the 2011 total is close to the budgeted amount.

Ms. Busher left the meeting at this time.

Other Items:

Mr. Mathews had additional questions about the budget:

- On page 24, Street and Road Maintenance, he asked what came out of the other expense line (\$10,913); Ms. Monzo will get a detailed description of purchases. He also asked about the road repair/maintenance line item (\$22,800) – while \$11,279 was encumbered at the time of sheet preparation, two more large bills came in afterwards. Mr. Mathews asked where the payment to Rutgers for tree removal would be shown; it is listed under storm expense (\$4,126). Mayor Kneski reminded the Township Committee that FEMA reimbursement for the storm related expenses may be available; Mr. Matheny is working with OEM Coordinator Myers on this.

- On page 25, Mr. Mathews asked about the policy of having, as an example, a recycling secretary and cost of minute preparation. He spoke about committees he served on who wrote their own minutes of meetings. Mayor Kneski spoke about applying for recycling grants and submission of minutes and tonnage reports as the basis of getting the grants. Ms. Monzo agreed, stating that these reports are submitted on a quarterly basis.

- On page 26, the NJ DEP invoice (also mentioned at the last budget meeting) pertained to 10 years of administrative oversight costs associated with the municipal contamination issue and had to be paid in order to get a No Further Action letter from the state. This was a one-time fee, and Ms. Monzo will remove the \$7,500 put in the budget this year for this line. A recent letter from the NJ DEP now gave the authority of overseeing the remediation to private vendors, and Handex is now handling the process. The letter from the State indicated some information was necessary by March 1, and Larry Tatsch is following up with Handex on this.

- On page 29, Public Health Services, Mr. Mathews questioned the overall increase in the budget. Mayor Kneski said that the Hunterdon County contractual line item was for septic, well, and food inspections, and there may be an increase in these. The secretarial hours, cut from 15 to 6 in January were extended mid- year to 10 hours. The stream/salt monitoring program is funding to pay for well tests for sodium content for a number of monitoring wells in relationship to the salt application on township roads.

- On page 33, Stormwater Permit- Public Health, the \$3,500 in other expenses is to cover the expenses related to the engineer's review as Stormwater Management Coordinator for those developments that qualify. The Zoning Officer circumvents some review by looking at the applications as a first step and only forwarding those that pass more than half of the criteria for review. Mayor Kneski described this as "an unfunded state mandate" and is necessary to adhere to stormwater requirements.

- On page 36, Electricity, Mr. Mathews asked about the spotlights to be installed using the school's planned solar installation. Mr. Matheny noted that Mr. Miles will be negotiating with the school on the new solar plans.

- On page 45, Defined Contribution Retirement Program, Ms. Monzo explained that

there is only one person in this specific program, which is utilized in place of the pension program. Both the employer and employee make contributions.

- On page 56, Capital Improvements, Ms. Monzo used the same figure as last year, \$63,300. This budget can be used for down payments for capital projects, i.e., utilizing 5% of the funding for an ordinance, i.e., this would equate to \$1.2 million worth of capital to be authorized. She further explained that this number is adjustable; additionally, the money can automatically be put into the capital trust for future projects if it is not utilized.

- On page 63, Mr. Mathews asked about emergency appropriations. Ms. Monzo explained that the budget would be for prior year deferred charges, e.g., for storm related expenses that were not budgeted. The governing body would have to approve a resolution during an event and call for an emergency expense; it would have to be paid in the subsequent year. This is similar to the budget on page 65 for Special Emergency Authorizations, e.g., such as a reassessment.

Mr. Sageser referred to page 24, Streets and Road Maintenance, regarding salt v. cinders. Mayor Kneski mentioned the pilot program of salting roads in 2009 and an increased program to include additional roads based on the concerns raised by residents. He also mentioned that cinders are not as available as they once were. Additionally, with the elimination of cinders, the line item for sweeping them was eliminated. Mr. Matheny also explained that the DPW members often stockpile salt if there are funds available; he commented on a potential reduction of the budget if weather cooperates.

The meeting was open to the public for comments. There being no members of the public, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cregar, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried to close to the public.

Mr. Mathews asked if there would be discussion on the budget at the regular meeting on Thursday night. Mayor Kneski said that he may have some information from the annual Mayor's Day meeting about state aid figures.

Ms. Monzo suggested a meeting in a couple of weeks after state numbers are made available; she will let the Clerk know when to schedule it. Ms. Monzo thought that the Township Committee should be ready to introduce in March. On a question about the capital budget, Ms. Monzo and Mr. Matheny will discuss capital projects.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cregar, seconded by Mr. Sageser, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk