

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Linda Lenox, and Committee members Patricia Cregar and Timothy Martin. Committee member Larry Tatsch and Township Administrator Timothy Matheny were absent. Treasurer/CFO Jane Luhrs was also in attendance.

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 April 13, 2009, and a legal notice was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on April 16, 2009. The purpose of this meeting is to hold the 2009 Open Space Trust Hearing and to introduce the 2009 Budget. The public is invited to attend and comment. Action will be taken.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was open to the public for comments; there being no members of the public, motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Martin, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009 OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

The Clerk reminded the governing body that this is the annual hearing on the local open space tax, which can be used for open space, recreation, and historic uses. Treasurer Luhrs provided the breakdown of the proposed budget with a total allocation of \$139,500.

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to open to the public. There being no members of the public, motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Martin, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

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RESOLUTION #69-09

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby approve the 2009 Open Space Trust Fund to utilize \$139,500 for the following purposes:

\$ 7,500	Development of Lands for Recreation & Conservation: Recreation Fields	
\$ 39,000	Maintenance of Parks & Lands for Recreation & Conservation:	
	Clawson Park Maintenance	\$30,000
	Soccer Field Maintenance	\$ 5,000
	Recreation Field Maintenance	\$ 4,000
\$90,000	Acquisition of Farmland	
	Down Payments	\$50,000
	Down Payments & Soft Costs	\$40,000
\$ 3,000	Historic Preservation: Other Expenses	\$ 3,000
\$139,500	TOTAL TRUST FUND APPROPRIATIONS	

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

+++++ Motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mrs. Cregar, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF the 2009 BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL

Copies of the budget were provided to the governing body for consideration. Mrs. Luhrs provided a summary of the budget, based on the discussions at the April 9, 2009

Township Committee with the following highlights: the governing body agreed that they would not apply for the pension deferral since telephone conversations with the Division of Local Government Services indicated that the municipality should use the reserve for uncollected taxes in the same amount of the deferral rather than apply for the deferral; this will affect surplus, and if the tax collection goes down this year, there will be a negative effect on the surplus for next year; the Division also indicated that there was no guarantee that the Township would be given the pension deferral and may have had to use the reserve after all; using the reserve instead of the pension deferral resulted in an extra \$10,000 in the budget; \$5,000 will be used for engineering for the FEMA ordinance and the remainder was put into Roads.

Ms. Lenox thanked Mrs. Luhrs for the update and for her assistance in the budget preparation.

Mrs. Luhrs reminded the government body that "surplus is key."

Mayor Kneski commented on Mrs. Luhrs providing tax information on a house assessed at \$450,000; based on the 2009 tax rate, there would be a \$41 increase in municipal taxes for the full year. It was noted that the municipal tax is less than a penny increase, while the school may increase by a couple of cents; additionally, the county tax is going up. Mr. Martin commented that the local tax would equate to under \$4.00 per month, and he appreciated the information being pulled together to "show the real value."

Mayor Kneski commended Mrs. Luhrs, staff, and the Township Committee for their hard work in preparing a frugal budget, particularly in light of the decrease in state aid. He thanked everyone for their participation.

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RESOLUTION #70 -09

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2009 BUDGET

(As Attached to the Original Set of Minutes)

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Martin, yes; Mrs. Cregar, yes; Ms. Lenox, yes; Mr. Kneski, yes.

(For the record, the budget summary will be published in the April 30, 2009, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be at a special meeting to be held on May 21, 2009 at the municipal building, at 7:30 p.m. This information is part of the resolution adopted by the governing body, as attached to the minutes.)

The meeting was open to the public for comments. There being no members of the public, motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mrs. Cregar, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

