

**THERE WAS NO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MAY 12, 2011**

**ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2011, AT 6:00 P.M., THE JACKSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL HELD ITS FIRST OF THREE 2011 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETINGS IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCILMAN KAFTON  
COUNCILWOMAN RIVERE  
COUNCILWOMAN UPDEGRAVE  
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT BRESSI  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARTIN**

**ATTORNEY GILMORE  
DEPUTY CLERK KISTY**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:  
MAYOR REINA  
ADMINISTRATOR TORRES  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PINKAVA**

As Clerk of this meeting, I publicly announce that in compliance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act" adequate notice of this meeting of the Jackson Township Council has been advertised in the manner prescribed by law.

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**COMMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**COUNCILMAN KAFTON** waived his comments in light of the agenda and wishing to hear from the public and department heads.

**COUNCILWOMAN RIVERE** thanked everyone for coming and waived her comments.

**COUNCILWOMAN UPDEGRAVE** thanked everyone for coming and waived her comments.

**COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT BRESSI** waived comments and appreciated everyone coming out.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARTIN** waived his comments as well.

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**TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON  
2011  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**MICHAEL CAMPBELL, TAX COLLECTOR**

Council Vice President Bressi asked Mr. Campbell if he was comfortable with the reserve for uncollected taxes. Mr. Campbell said he was; to maintain the reserve level, there is an increased amount to be collected.

*Frank Cipully* noted there are a large number of foreclosures and asked if there are any properties up for sheriff sale. Mr. Campbell responded that his office does not handle sheriff sales; the mortgage companies do and the banks pay the taxes even though they are foreclosing on the homeowners. Mr. Cipully asked what happens if the bank is not paying the taxes, and Mr. Campbell hasn't noticed that because the taxes come from escrow; he has noticed the non-escrow accounts, when they fall delinquent, then the property could be offered for tax sale.

*Gene Davis* asked what percent of taxes are collected and Mr. Campbell said 98.07% for last year and the year before.

**TONI NAGLE-ROWE, TAX ASSESSOR**

There were no questions from Council or from the public.

**ANN MARIE EDEN, TOWNSHIP CLERK**

*Kathy Giancola* asked when the meeting minutes would be brought up to date and if getting more money in the budget would help that. Ms. Eden stated she has a concern; she has a staff of three, not counting the part-time mail clerk. Layoff notices have gone out and one position is slated for layoff as of July 1. She asked Personnel how that was determined and was told they used the layoff list from last year. Ms. Eden stated since August 2010, there was a retirement in the Clerk's office and that position wasn't filled. Last year there were four positions, and now there are three, and if this layoff occurs, two staff members will remain. She would like Council to reconsider this, as the Clerk's office is under Council. Council President Martin asked what the salary is for the proposed layoff position and was told \$30,932. Ms. Eden understood every department would have hardship, but stated in this office, it would be exceptionally difficult. Councilwoman Updegrave stated she would speak to the Mayor because the layoff plan would have been compiled by Administration and the Department has to be able to perform its duties. Councilwoman Updegrave asked if the copy machine with scanning capability has helped the office and Ms. Eden responded yes, tremendously, and we print from the copier as well, saving toner costs.

**SHEILA FLAMM/SHERI SILVERSMITH – RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES**

*Campbell Brown* asked if there were any salary increases from 2010. Ms. Flamm answered no.

*Chief Financial Officer Pinkava* said she passed out an Excel spreadsheet based on amendments she felt was necessary after the introduced budget. There is an increase in salaries and wages for the Office of the Golden Age, and it represents three, full-time bus drivers. There was never consideration for the change from part time to full time bus drivers, and that represents the increase. This is paid by a grant for \$17,000. The grant was used for two workers in the Senior Center. Councilwoman Updegrave asked how Diane Black's retirement affected this. Ms. Silversmith stated another worker in the office is handling her responsibilities. Ms. Flamm said the staff has pulled together to handle the work at no extra pay, and it is being handled professionally.

**SHARON PINKAVA, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

*Campbell Brown* asked if there were any increases in salaries. Ms. Pinkava stated there was an adjustment because the layoffs caused an increase to her department of \$21,000 and a decrease to another department for \$17,000, almost dollar for dollar.

*Patricia Schwark, 159 Crescent Avenue* asked if anything was missing. Ms. Pinkava said yes, one group of changes after Budget intro is above class, which is contractual, an increase of \$4,000. It was originally omitted after the budget was put together.

*Saundra Suiter, Cooks Bridge Road* asked if anyone in the department was laid off and Ms. Pinkava said no. She said members of her department help out in the tax office and purchasing. Ms. Suiter said she has 7 employees in Finance, and Ms. Pinkava said that would be an administrative decision and that centralized purchasing would help streamline the process. Councilwoman Updegrave said certification of employees is costly and not always cost effective. Council Vice President Bressi asked if that could be done in a Civil Service town. Administrator Torres said he was correct, and the list of classifications was just received, and would be distributed to Department heads to see if those measures could be implemented. Councilwoman Rivere asked if someone is trained as a QPA in one of his offices. Administrator Torres said Ms. Bado is training for her QPA. Councilwoman Rivere asked if she would then assume the responsibilities. Administrator Torres said she would take on the majority of the responsibilities. He was unsure if only one person could handle all of it. Councilwoman Rivere felt a QPA should be separate from the person overseeing the department, which is what Administrator Torres is doing. Council President Martin felt the Council is overseeing purchases. Mayor Reina agreed and explained the process. Councilwoman Rivere said she is questioning the checks and balances.

*Campbell Brown* asked if the maximum municipal tax levy cap has been recalculated since the referendum was voted down and was told yes. He asked if we would be raising the tax levy to the cap. Ms. Pinkava said it is up to Council if the adjustments would go through. Mr. Brown asked if the township takes into account any anticipated increases of salary for union members and Ms. Pinkava said yes.

#### **JUDGE DANIEL SAHIN, COURT**

*Judge Sahin* did not believe the final numbers were given. Ms. Pinkava commented the salary line is being increased for on call, above class and to compensate for the next four Fridays which are not furloughs, and Judge Sahin added that was by Court order. Judge Sahin felt the budget was straightforward and what he believes to be bare bones. There is a budget shortfall perhaps due to furlough. This is their best proposal.

#### **DANIEL BURKE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT**

*Mr. Burke* is involved in many aspects of Jackson Township's government. His department was fashioned with the change in government. He was named Director of the department in 2007 and had 59 full-time employees. Currently, there are 27 full time, 3 part time and the proposal is for 23 full time and 3 part time. There are 17 non-union and 10 union members, and the proposal shows 4 less union members. The department is disappearing. Building Inspections is running in the black but employees were diverted elsewhere, and the remaining employees have suffered pay freezes and a cut in pay due to furloughs, and paying pension and health costs on reduced salaries. Mr. Burke defended his non-union employees for their sacrifices and non-representation. His staff has a direct impact on the quality of life for the residents of Jackson, as in building inspections and housing. He said he would fight for his people to get something back for their efforts. He said unions are getting more. His department has taken the lion's share of the hit. None of the unions have come close to that, in fact, one of the unions received a 15% increase in salary. There has to be some fairness. Contracts are very telling. He will continue to do the business of the people but he expects his employees to be treated fairly. Some employees have earned extra licenses and use them on the job with no pay increases, and departmental income has increased but can't be used for raises. Councilwoman Rivere believed the solution to the staffing issues lie in the negotiating room. Councilwoman Updegrave thanked Mr. Burke for speaking on behalf of the non-union members, and she apologized for the response Mr. Burke received when he asked why non-union workers take the cuts, and he was told 'because we can'. Mr. Burke said it didn't matter who said it, what mattered is that management leadership said it. Ms. Pinkava noted the allowance for one vehicle. Ms. Pinkava also noted the salaries and wages for Animal Control is reduced by \$30,300 from last year when two part time workers did the work of one full time worker due to disability. Mr. Burke said we are still providing services to other municipalities. Ms. Pinkava said there is a 3.9% increase for salaries in the Building Department and stipends for multiple licenses. Ms. Pinkava also stated there is an increase of \$1600 for Rent Leveling because last year, the Board only met once per month and has resumed meeting twice per month, per usual.

*Campbell Brown* would not apologize for how much he or his compatriots make, stating they do a very different job. He was not going to debate Mr. Burke's statement; he had a question about Animal Control and stated his question was answered. Mr. Burke stated he knows what it takes to be a first responder, given his experience and background. He respects what they do, we should be able to do more with less.

*Judy Sherry* appreciated Mr. Burke's comments toward non-union workers. She doesn't have unlimited sick time. They have limited workers and work hard. Promotions and raises are deserved for all staff, not just non-union staff.

*Michael Kelly, 391 Meadowood Road* asked how much money is collected for dog licenses and Mr. Burke said there are about 5,000 dogs. He also mentioned the various departments which collect user fees, which offset the activities. Mr. Kelly said there are fees that are uncollected and suggested using unemployed people to collect fees, such as the dog park. Charge people for things that aren't being collected now. He asked Council to negotiate fairly.

*Frank Cipully, 14 Brittany Lane* lives and works in town and knows what it's like. There are grants for consolidation for doing work in other towns. Mr. Burke stated we are compensated for that.

*Ray Cattoner, 11 Fordham Road* asked if Mr. Burke handled the UCC and Mr. Burke said that is part of building inspections. Mr. Cattoner asked about the \$20,000 increase in salaries and other expenses dropping from \$250,000 to \$83,000. Ms. Pinkava explained the \$20,000 increase earlier and said the reduction in other expenses is due to indirect costs, such as health benefits. And the drop is due to the layoffs. Mr. Cattoner was also looking at Page 38 under General Appropriations and noted employee health benefits jumped from \$400,000 to \$1.4 million. Ms. Pinkava said every year, the State changes what is inside and outside cap, so you have to look at the numbers and add them together, and it has been changed from last year to this year. Councilwoman Rivere asked if it is legal to establish a trust fund for the Building Department, and Mr. Burke said that has been discussed, and it varies when revenue peaks and drops. Councilwoman Rivere said a few years back, when they were discussing eliminating the Building Department, they talked of establishing a trust fund for the lean years to keep the department self sustaining. Council Vice President said after three continuous boom years, the money goes back to the State with a trust fund, and you have to lower your fees. Mr. Burke said the dramatic cuts weren't the solution. Councilwoman Rivere would like this discussed in the near future. Mr. Burke said they are not permitted to use the money available for microfilming or for salary increases for the department because the money is earmarked for elsewhere, and that is inappropriate. Mr. Burke would have Mr. Olejarz research nearby towns as to their procedures.

*Campbell Brown* asked about the increase for snow removal. Mr. Burke covers municipal services, such as gated communities. This is for snow removal and street lighting in those communities.

*Dawn D'Agostino* worked in Planning and Zoning for eleven years but only has the title of Senior Clerk despite doing the work of Principal Clerk. She asked why she is being let go, not because of her work, and why she has never received a promotion and was always told next year. Unemployment is not going to help her pay her bills. She didn't understand how eleven years of service translates to being laid off. Mr. Burke said Ms. D'Agostino is a long time, very capable employee and he was surprised to see she was on the layoff list. She oversees the Zoning Board among other high traffic in Planning and Zoning. 40% of the staff in that division is slated for layoff and it makes no sense.

*Jeffrey Purpuro, Zoning Officer* did not know how the layoffs would be determined, and said the workload will be tremendous now, with two of three employees being laid off. This is setting up the department for failure. Dawn has done her job above and beyond the call of duty and is a key component on how his office runs.

*Gene Davis* asked Mr. Burke how the fee is determined for Animal Control services in other towns. Mr. Burke said they calculate vehicle costs, mileage, benefits plus a percentage. The agreements are reviewed and refined as time goes on. There is one full time animal control officer and two part time officers, plus one full time administrative staff member. Mr. Davis asked what is the overtime spent for Animal Control. Mr. Burke said there is a procedure for call out and believed overtime is a two-hour minimum. Mr. Davis wanted to know how many lawsuits the town has against it at this time, and that question was deemed not pertaining to Mr. Burke.

*Sheldon Hofstein* said the Zoning and Planning Boards are looking for commercial ratables, and if the applicants are told there is a long wait time to be heard, they will look elsewhere. Mr. Bressi responded if the applicants are not heard in a timely manner, the application is approved automatically. Mr. Hofstein said the Zoning Board hears between 8 and 10 applications each month. He can't see laying off all the people in that department.

*Sean Giblin* asked Mr. Burke how much is collected from outside agencies for Animal Control. Mr. Burke did not have the exact figures but explained the process. Mr. Giblin asked Mr. Torres why the anticipated revenue for Animal Control did not show in the revenue section as general revenue. Ms. Pinkava said the amount has dwindled somewhat and it is under miscellaneous revenue and does not show as anticipated revenue. Mr. Giblin said the transparency is not there to show the revenue brought in from 2010.

*Campbell Brown* asked much the current road job rate is that the Township collects and Ms. Pinkava stated \$20. He asked how much was collected for the road jobs from the town and Ms. Pinkava said it goes through the escrow account. It is used for gas, maintenance, payroll, vouchers and cars idling. Police vehicles are used. They are under the DPW line item. Councilwoman Rivere asked what surrounding towns get for that service. Mr. Brown said we are comparable. Ms. Pinkava said \$90,000 as a surcharge. Mr. Brown asked how many cars that bought last year. This would be discussed further.

*Frank Cipully* said road jobs are outside contracts. Salaries are already budgeted for in administrative work and should not come out of that \$20 fee.

*Michael Kelly* asked who pays for the police cars out there, the vendors or the town? Ms. Pinkava said it is a township vehicle. Mr. Kelly thought if a commercial property hired a police officer to come in, that the outside concern paid for it. The police car should be charged to the outside vendor and Ms. Pinkava said it is.

#### **FRED RASIEWICZ, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

*Ms. Pinkava* said the \$50,000 for vehicles has been taken care of previously in Capital. The Buildings and Grounds salary line item was increased by \$1,000 for above class, based on last year's activity.

*Councilman Kafton* asked if we received the money from FEMA for snow removal. Ms. Pinkava said not yet but was told we *could* receive \$240,000 this year. Councilman Kafton asked if we could reduce the snow budget by that amount and was told no, because it is a reimbursement from a prior year. It will go into miscellaneous revenue and will be part of the 2012 surplus budget.

*Mayor Reina* said he has been following the emails between Finance and FEMA, who keeps asking for further documentation. He agreed with Ms. Pinkava to leave whatever we get in reserve to be used as needed.

*Council Vice President Bressi* asked if setting up a trust fund for snow removal was looked into; he recommends it. Mr. Rasiewicz agreed with the trust fund.

*Councilwoman Rivere* asked how many vehicles under DPW are we budgeting for. She asked how many employees DPW is slated to lose and was told 10, bringing the staff down to 50.

*Councilman Kafton* asked if, in Mr. Rasiewicz's opinion, there is any way to reduce the capital expenditure for vehicles. *Councilman Bressi* felt the way to go is to use the equipment a little longer to save a person's job. *Mr. Rasiewicz* said if he doesn't have the employees, he doesn't need the equipment, but there will be reduction in services. It is a tri-fold problem. *Councilwoman Rivere* stated a body in the job is better than a truck on the road, but the equipment in DPW is deplorable. *Mayor Reina* said the developments are unique and equipment has to be replaced. Multi-purpose equipment is needed. He respects keeping people's jobs, but anything that can be done to offset outside contracts is appreciated. *Council Vice President Bressi* felt it was prudent to rely on outside contractors and maintain employees.

*Sheldon Hofstein, 48 Baltusrol Drive* asked how much leaf pickup costs the town and how much could be saved by eliminating it. Mr. Rasiewicz did not have the numbers available. Mr. Hofstein felt leaf removal is not a mandatory service; it is a service people would like to have. Mr. Rasiewicz said leaf pick-ups are twice a year and bulk pick ups are three times per year, and reducing that number is possible to save money.

*Chris Dunton, 124 Adams Way* said we it shouldn't be about one time fixes; it should be about long-term fixes. If we are going to balance a budget and focus on people, we need to look at expenses long-term.

*Sean Giblin, 515 S. Cooks Bridge Road* said grass was no longer collected in 2008 to save around \$80,000. In 2009, \$90,000 was to be saved for composting. And \$125,000 was recently to be saved by giving leaves to JR Landscaping. Organic disposal costs remain high. It can't be saved three times. Mr. Giblin asked if there is anything in the budget that could be guaranteed and where the \$125,000 savings. Administrative Torres said Mr. Rasiewicz gave the quote as it relates to a pilot program, and his statement about millings plus the cubic yardage of leaves. Mr. Rasiewicz said he included fuel and labor costs from his department to reach that figure. Actual dumping fees are around \$60,000. Mr. Giblin said something doesn't add up. Ms. Pinkava explained the difference Mr. Giblin is seeing is actually for the transfer and the actual appropriation was for \$100,000. He is looking for true numbers.

*Linda Selznick* said leaf collection is a safety issue. She lives in Westlake and asked about the Johnson Park compost facility. She asked if there are any other places to put the compost facility and if it could be accomplished. Council President Martin said it is being worked on and he is hoping to leave it at the Vista Center location. It is a complicated issue, but the current site is working. There are no other viable sites. *Mayor Reina* said they are working on alternate sites; this is not the time to discuss leaf pickup. He doesn't have the answers from the State yet.

*Campbell Brown* said \$353,000 was spent last year and this year is \$610,000. Ms. Pinkava said some bills spilled over to this year. Council President Martin said if he looks at the budget objectively, there is very little change. Ms. Pinkava said FEMA reimbursed over \$100,000 for this year's budget.

*Patricia Schwark, Principal Accountant for Jackson*, asked if bonding for road improvements requires a 5% down payment; Ms. Pinkava said yes. Her point is if you want to push aside equipment purchases, ask the engineer what roads are slated for improvement.

*Vinnie Rubio, Lakehurst Avenue* asked why truck leaves out of town. Mr. Rasiewicz said it is composting. The County will bring a piece of equipment once or twice a month to grind the leaves to try to bring it to its natural state by November 1. Mr. Rubio asked if the town owns property near the golf course and was told it was sold to the MUA last year. Mr. Rubio had questions on the budget and regarding police vehicles. When a police vehicle is totaled, where does the money go, and Ms. Pinkava said if it crosses years, it goes into the surplus, but if it is the same year, it goes back into the police line item. Mr. Rubio said he doesn't see it. His concern is for a trust fund for wrecks for police vehicles or to offset police deductibles. Ms. Pinkava said deductibles are \$2,500, and insurance is \$250,000. There was no choice, that is the deductible. And whatever the insurance doesn't cover, DPW covers. Mr. Rubio spoke of deer crash costs and asked why the cost is so high. He asked how much money is being saved with the higher deductible. Mayor Reina promised an answer as he wanted it as well. *Council Vice President Bressi* believes in trust funds in some cases, and believes this is one of them. Mr. Rubio also asked why road job money can't be brought into the budget. *Mayor Reina* said this was brought up before: how to separate line items. Mr. Rubio wanted the money to be brought into trust funds. *Council President Bressi* said the money would have to be used for that only. Mr. Rubio agreed and wanted it that way. *Councilwoman Rivere* asked if there is a cost trail for fuel on each vehicle and was told yes.

*Councilman Kafton* asked if this budget includes furloughs and was told no. He asked the savings and was told over \$23,000 per day, or half a million dollars for six months.

#### **MATTHEW KUNZ, CHIEF OF POLICE**

*Chief Kunz* spoke of the diverse services provided to the town and the layoffs being discussed. Chief Kunz said the workload in the Police Department is still there with the increased number of residents. He did come up with some savings amounts. He spoke of

the increased number of disturbance calls and their impact with a reduced staff. It has to be decided which services will be deemed most important. They are doing what they can with the amount budgeted. He wants to keep the staff intact.

*Councilwoman Rivere* said there is a \$900,000 shortfall. She does not want to see anyone laid off. She felt the answer lies in negotiations, but hasn't been in on those.

*Council Vice President Bressi* asked Chief Kunz if he could find a way to save money for his employees. Other departments will be asked the same.

*Council President Martin* spoke of health benefit costs, which have to be seriously looked at.

*Councilwoman Updegrave* said they don't know what the State will propose, but she believes if bargaining units would come to a certain percentage and 'lock it in', they would not be subject to a mandatory figure in the future.

*Frank Cipully* said what Councilwoman Updegrave spoke of has nothing to do with the Chief right now; it has to do with a negotiating unit. He said they gave up enough already. Council President Martin reiterated that he said 'town-wide' and that he wasn't singling out any bargaining unit.

*Michael Kelly, 391 Meadowood Road* suggested Council give up their benefits and stop playing around with everyone's salaries. He is sure there will be give backs with the unions. He said the school budget is easy to understand and asked if this budget is online. Ms. Pinkava said the introduced budget is online and is a working document.

*Ray Cattonar, 11 Fordham Road* wanted to know how we determine the amount of police in our town. Chief Kunz said there are guidelines, and general rules of thumb. Mr. Cattonar asked if there are reports on the crime rate and Chief Kunz said up to 2009 is online, with burglaries, motor vehicles and robberies being the highest crimes. Mr. Cattonar asked if extra patrols result in less crime. Chief Kunz said prevention is hard to measure but is a valid portion of service provided to the town.

*Joe Candido, Leanne Drive* agreed the crime rate has gone up, and there was a study that indicated they needed 94 police officers, and with a proposal of 56 police officers, the level of service would not be there. There are currently 79 officers. Mr. Candido said the layoff of 23 police officers would result in a reduction of over \$1M. Ms. Pinkava said the amount would be adjusted for 6 months, plus unemployment would have to be paid. Chief Kunz said it was recommended to add 42 police officers to the staff, which he knows is not realistic in these economic times. Councilwoman Rivere asked if the department would be efficient with 79 officers and Chief Kunz said yes, but they are already understaffed. There aren't enough hours in the day to give attention to the cases which are solvable.

*Saundra Suiter, S. Cooks Bridge Road* asked how much would be paid for the laid off officers' unemployment. Ms. Pinkava said they would be paying \$600 per week. Ms. Suiter asked how much unemployment then reimburses the Town, and Ms. Pinkava said there is no reimbursement. Ms. Suiter asked where the money goes that employees pay into unemployment. Ms. Pinkava said it goes into a trust fund and that is what unemployment is paid out of. Every year, a certain amount must be set aside to cover for the unemployment. Ms. Suiter asked Mr. Bressi why he questioned the Chief on his budget figures, and Mr. Bressi said he wanted to go straight to the numbers to see what could be cut, to start a different dialogue on budget numbers.

*Campbell Brown* addressed Councilwoman Rivere's efficiency question. They were on an 8-hour schedule, but there is no overlap. Reports have to be finished prior to the end of shift, creating overtime situations. The alternate work schedule has created an overlap, and overtime is limited. They have eliminated \$27,000 in 4 months this way. They are working toward more efficiency.

*Vinnie Rubio, Lakehurst Avenue* said Howell Township gets \$4 per hour per road job. He asked why that couldn't be added as a line to the budget, for what they brought in and average it for the past 5 years and add it as a line item. Ms. Pinkava said she would have to check with the auditor. Mr. Rubio asked how much money it would cost to lay people off. Ms. Pinkava said \$650,000 would be saved, net. Mr. Rubio asked how much it would cost to bring people back, and what happens to what was already spent. Ms. Pinkava clarified the budgeting issue as it pertained to his question.

*Joe Candido* asked the increase in overtime expense and was told \$120,000. Mr. Candido said that is not realistic.

### **JOSE TORRES, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

*Administrator Torres* said the financial situation from the beginning of the year prompted him to solicit input from the Department Heads. The primary goal was to eliminate furloughs. *Councilman Bressi* said he asked 5-6 times for information on the bonds from Mr. Torres and still doesn't have it. *Administrator Torres* continued, saying he tried to find the value of the 48-day giveback as far as furloughs, which was about \$1.2M. He asked various department heads for other cost saving measures which he also received. He presented a budget which required the 2% levy cap referendum to pass, which it did not. He said one thing he is not at liberty to discuss is that they are in negotiations. He tried some cost savings measures on his own, such as third party billing for ambulance, and charging Board secretary administrative costs to an escrow, which is allowed by law. They are also looking into charging online recreation fees. He felt it was allowable to charge police road jobs for the cost of the vehicle only. He researched everything to bring a better budget to the Council.

*Councilwoman Rivere* said they have until May 24 to come up with \$900,000.

*Council Vice President Bressi* spoke of paying down bonds and his suggestion to do so in the past. That relieves the amount in a tax year that must be raised by taxation, with the downside being that you can't use a certain amount for bonding in a year. It has to be done by ordinance. And he wants the answers to that.

*Chief Financial Officer Pinkava* understood it had to be done within the year. The bond ordinance would have to be cancelled in one year to be used in the next year. \$100,000 was cancelled this year and that is in this budget. Administrator Torres agreed to look into it.

*Councilman Kafton* asked if the town could be efficiently run if all 46 employees were laid off. Administrator Torres requested a desk audit from the DCA, because their approval of a reduction in staff allows the bottom line for money, but does not take services provided into consideration.

*Mayor Reina* did not feel the offices could run the way they are supposed to with the reduction in staff. Every office is doing without right now. We are living within our means.

*Councilman Kafton* asked why they handed him a budget that can't work, and is now asking for help. Administrator Torres said they are limited to the 2% cap. Councilman Kafton said they didn't give Council an alternative, and the current budget can't work.

*Council Vice President Bressi* said it is their job to present a budget that meets the requirements of the law, and it is Council's job to find a way to make it work. Many Council members had good suggestions.

*Councilman Kafton* said the layoffs are proposed, yet the town wouldn't be run efficiently. He felt the budget was presented to Council, knowing it wouldn't work, with the expectation that Council would have to figure it out. Administrator Torres said negotiations must take place. Employees want to work 5 days. Forty-eight days of furloughs was too much.

*Councilwoman Rivere* asked Mr. Torres to explain his salary, and he said it is \$125,000, which is \$110,000 for Administration and \$15,000 for Purchasing. Ms. Rivere said that bothered her because he is overseeing himself. Ms. Rivere found a \$4000 raise which did not appear proper. Administrator Torres said he previously indicated there were typographical errors and there were other adjustments that were made. Councilwoman Rivere said she was also called about the \$400 car allowance and felt that would be an issue. Administrator Torres said the former administrator was at \$137,000 with the same car allowance.

*Campbell Brown* asked if the layoff plan was amended to show the true numbers. Administrator Torres said no, because it is still under discussion. Mr. Brown said there are deficiencies and it might mean one or two jobs. Ms. Pinkava said these are adjustments under consideration by Council. Mr. Brown said numbers are changing, and will the layoff plan be amended? Administrator Torres said an amended budget will be submitted, but after Council approves it. Mr. Brown asked if Council is prepared to raise taxes to the 2% maximum, and it is still under consideration to find as many tax savings as they can, to eliminate the same problem next year. Councilwoman Updegrave said a lot of issues are statutory. That is one of the major problems they face. Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Torres has all certification to be the Purchasing Agent. Administrator Torres stated he has the civil service title for the past 18 years.

*Stephanie Brown* asked if Administrator Torres' salary includes a 20% pay cut, and Administrator Torres said yes. Ms. Brown asked Administrator Torres spoke with the Police Chief for input on what it would be like to run a town without the officers that it needs. Administrator Torres said a lot of areas need to be looked at, and to look at a comparable police department with comparable costs. Ms. Brown said every effort needs to be made to keep the officers we have.

*Councilman Kafton* followed up on Campbell Brown's question on Administrator Torres' qualifications as a Purchasing Agent. Administrator Torres said there might be some confusion with the title as it relates to a QPA. He has an approved Civil Service Title as a Purchasing Agent and has served in that capacity for 18 years. The new qualification as a QPA just came into effect last year, which allows the purchasing agent to go over the threshold without competitive bidding. If the Council doesn't allow going over the threshold by resolution, then the amount is reduced and perhaps the Town would have to go out to bid. And that is the difference. Most municipalities don't give the power to the Purchasing Agent, even if he or she is a QPA, and instead the governing body approves the bids.

*Gene Davis* recommended that Council give up their benefits. He asked Administrator Torres to take a reduction in pay. He asked for a reduction in the number of lawyers. He asked if unions agreed to furloughs for the first half of 2011. He asked when the layoff plan was sent to PERC and Administrator Torres responded and received notification that it was approved. Mr. Davis asked if he is paid for 5 days per week. Mr. Torres said yes; Mr. Davis asked him if he would report to work tomorrow and Mr. Torres stated the township is operating on a 4-day workweek. Mr. Torres said his salary takes into account the 4-day workweek. The prior administrator received \$137,000. Mr. Davis said new employees rarely receive the amount a prior employee received.

*Daniel Burke* divided the \$900,000 by 47 layoffs and came up with \$19,500 per body. He asked if he found that amount in his budget, could he buy back a body? If he saves it, he wants to buy that body back. It doesn't make sense to lay off the employee to reduce services to the town when the workload is coming in and the moneys paid to the town, and yet services are reduced.

*Sheldon Hofstein* said it was stated that the Seniors voted down the referendum, and he wanted to clarify that every issue would have been voted down without the Senior vote. He suggested trying to get more money from Great Adventure. Council said they tried but that can't be done.

*Barry Olejarz* supported Mr. Burke and appreciated Mr. Burke supporting the Building Department. Money was made last year to keep the department going, and he would like to put that money toward keeping the employees.

*Kathy Jean Giancola* asked if Mr. Burke's department makes money every year and we are laying off his employees. She asked Mr. Torres if he receives travel expenses, and he does, \$400. Mr. Burke is salaried and he takes a furlough? And yes. She reviewed Mr. Torres' salary and learned he is being paid less than the former administrator plus he has the Purchasing Agent duties.

*Joe Candido* spoke on the operating budget for the police department, which is \$400,000, and the town is asking for \$650,000 in savings. Council Vice President said the \$650,000 is for the layoffs, which is salaries. Councilwoman Updegrave said her suggestion was for every single department to skim off the top, 2% of operating expenses. These are just solutions they are trying to come up with. Mr. Candido did not hear any ideas of how to save money. The budget has been mismanaged for years. The only choice is to cut services to cut expenses.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: RIVERE**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: UPDEGRAVE**

**YES: KAFTON, RIVERE, UPDEGRAVE, BRESSI & MARTIN**

**11:11 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARTIN**

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**JANICE KISTY, R.M.C.  
DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**JK/jk**