

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on May 10, 2016 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING  
CALLED**

Mayor Gilbert called the regular meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were present: Mayor Karen Gilbert, Deputy Mayor Michael Mangin, Comm. Craig O'Brien, Comm. Richard Chen and Comm. Louis Reiner. Also present was Chief Financial Officer William Pandos and Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer.

**MEETING  
ADVERTISED**

Mayor Gilbert advised that the meeting has been noticed on May 6, 2016 by providing notice to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Courier-News, Trenton Times and Express Times in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and was posted on the office bulletin board and the Township Website.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**Mayor Gilbert asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and to remain standing for a Moment of Silence to remember our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces and in Particular Those Serving In Troubled Areas Around the World.**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

It is the policy of the Township Committee that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to three minutes per person. Public comment shall be permitted on items of concern regarding the agenda only. In addition, time will be allotted at the end of the meeting for public comment on any issue.

No one appeared.

**2016 BUDGET UPDATE**

Mayor Gilbert said that the Committee is not ready to introduce the budget at this time. There are several revisions that must be made. Bill Pandos, CFO, said that there is a checklist of documents that must be submitted to the State. Also, the Annual Financial Statement must be filed with the State before the adoption of the budget. Last year, the budget was introduced on April 14, 2015 and the Annual Financial Statement was filed with the State on April 29, 2016. The 2015 Budget was adopted on May 18, 2016. Mr. Pandos said that there may be a possibility that the Committee can introduce the budget on May 17, 2016.

*Mayor Gilbert asked for the adoption of Resolution #16-115. Adm. Giaimis said that he spoke with Maser and he agreed to bring down his price from \$14,600 to \$12,000.*

**Resolution #15-115 – Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for the Update of the Farmland Preservation Plan**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-115.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Chen.

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – yes  
                                  Mangin – no  
                                  O’Brien – yes  
                                  Reiner – yes  
                                  Gilbert - yes

Motion carried.

**2016 BUDGET UPDATE: (Con’t)**

Mayor Gilbert said that Tony Hajjar, Engineer, has requested a raise in salary. He requested this raise several months ago. He has obtained his surveyor’s license which allows him to sign off on maps. The former engineer was doing this service for the Township at no cost. Mayor Gilbert mentioned that Mr. Hajjar said that his out of pocket costs were \$30,000. She also mentioned that Mr. Hajjar stated that he was told, years ago, that he would be reimbursed for his costs. The increase he requested is \$8,000. Comm. O’Brien said that this would come out to \$11,000 with his regular increase. The escrow percentage more than exceeds what the increase in salary would be. Mayor Gilbert said that an increase in salary would not affect the budget because the escrow can be increased from 30% to 35%. Comm. Mangin asked if he could be paid a one-time bonus or a payment over two years or more. He felt that other supervisors could also ask for a increase in salary. Adm. Giaimis said that there is an entire procedure for the payment of bonuses. Comm. Reiner said that he opposes the increase because it would send a bad message to the public. A 9% raise would be perceived by the public. Mr. Pandos said that in the 2016 request in the 30% escrow meant that he billed \$36,000 escrow for the whole year. End of April to date, he has billed over \$50,000 from escrow. He is billing a whole lot more. He said that Mr. Hajjar said that his raise would have no impact on the budget. Comm. O’Brien asked what he was making as Assistant Engineer before he approves a salary increase. Mayor Gilbert asked if the budget could be introduced at a special meeting next week. Comm. O’Brien said that the Township is bonding too much and there items that the Township should not bond for. Mayor Gilbert said that she would like Comm. O’Brien to express his concerns to the Committee as a whole not just with

her. Comm. Mangin said that if the budget increases, he will not be in favor of it. He asked if certain items could be pushed off until next year, such as the new phone system. Comm. Mangin said he could be satisfied with a 1.6%.

There was a discussion regarding Chief Glenn Tabasko's accumulated sick time and compensatory time. The Committee decided to pay him \$32,000 per year for the next four years. The Committee discussed the possibility of paying the money from the budget or from surplus. Mr. Pandos said that he is confident that the Township will have the money back in November or December, however, it is not a guarantee. The consensus was as follows:

Comm. Mangin – take out the money from surplus  
Comm. O'Brien – place the money in the budget  
Comm. Reiner – take out the money from surplus  
Comm. Chen – place the money in the budget

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. O'Brien and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC  
Township Clerk