

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018**

MEETING CALLED: Mayor Mangin called the special meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL: The following were present: Mayor, Michael Mangin; Deputy Mayor, Karen Gilbert; Comm. Gary Hazard; Comm. Louis Reiner (arrived at 6:23 p.m.)

ABSENT: Comm. Craig O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator, Don Hutchins; Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania; Police Captain, Kevin Donovan; Township Auditor, Robert Swisher; Township Engineer, Antoine Hajjar; Chief Financial Officer, William Pandos

MEETING NOTICED: Mayor Mangin advised that the meeting was noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 March 14, 2018 with the Courier News and posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mayor Mangin 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.

AMEND/APPROVE THE AGENDA

Mayor Mangin asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
Motion by Gilbert, seconded by Hazard

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Gilbert, Hazard, Mayor Mangin
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: O'Brien, Reiner

2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Mangin recapped the following amendments to the 2018 capital budget discussed at the previous budget meeting:

- *removal of the Public Work's dump truck
- *delay of chip seal
- *\$135,000 for the Hampton Corner Road project

Mr. Hutchins advised that there is \$200,000 remaining from the Sunny Hills I road repair project which could possibly be reappropriated for chip seal of Leffler Hill and Old Clinton roads.

Committee Member Reiner joined the meeting at this time (6:23 p.m.).

Discussion was held regarding the funding of the ambulance for the First Aid and Rescue Squad and the impact of the timing of the budget introduction/adoption on the purchase of the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) tanks.

Mayor Mangin suggested that the Township budget only seventy-percent (70%) towards the purchase of the ambulance, as that is its share relative to the percentage of calls. Deputy Mayor Gilbert recommended proceeding as budgeted with the \$200,000 and addressing such concern regarding future contributions with the First Aid and Rescue Squad going forward.

Committee Member Reiner proposed utilizing an additional \$25,000 from surplus to offset a tax increase since he had not taken his salary for the past four (4) years. Discussion was held regarding the impact of the proposed increase in surplus utilization.

Township Auditor, Bob Swisher, commented on the aggressiveness of this year's use of revenue, reminding Committee Members that excess revenue generates surplus and there will be no surplus at the end of this year. Mr. Swisher continued that when State Aid is not coming in, the Township will need surplus to provide cash flow.

It was the consensus that no additional surplus be used at this time.

Mr. Hutchins addressed concerns raised regarding the impact of the timing of budget introduction/adoption on the purchase of the SCBA tanks proposing an April 6th introduction and May 15th public hearing/adoption. Mr. Hutchins continued that the bond ordinance could then be introduced following the budget adoption with public hearing/adoption of the ordinance in mid-June.

Mr. Swisher added that every three (3) years municipalities are subject to State review of their budgets and that this year is the Township's year for State examination. He continued that the appropriation for the SCBA tanks could also be included in the Temporary Budget and that the State could not hold up the purchase of the tanks. He further added that the Committee could also hold a special meeting.

It was the consensus of Committee Members to proceed with an April 6, 2018 budget introduction.

Mayor Mangin recapped bonding at \$1.64 million with a \$170,000 tax levy and announced that the budget introduction will be April 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

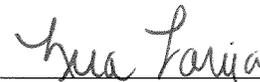
Mayor Mangin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Hazard

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk