**RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**
**RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

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**MEETING CALLED:** Mayor Kuhl called the special meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present: Mayor, Jeff Kuhl; Deputy Mayor, Karen Gilbert; Comm. Gary Hazard; Comm. Scott MacDade; Comm. Louis Reiner

**ALSO PRESENT**: Administrator, Don Hutchins; Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania; Chief Financial Officer, Bill Pandos; Fire Chief, Raritan Township Fire Company, Keith Paradiso; Raritan Township Fire Company past Fire Chiefs Doug Day and Steve Wetter

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**MEETING NOTICED:** Mayor Kuhl advised that the meeting was noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 January 10, 2020 to the Courier News, Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Express Times, NJ.com and was posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township website.

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**2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION #2**

**Fire Company**

Fire Chief, Keith Paradiso presented 2020 budget requests that included the following:

*11,000.00 increase in PEOSHA
*New fire truck

Chief Paradiso presented an explanation for the requests including aging turnout gear and radios; growth in the Township; downgraded quality of construction materials; better water supply as the new truck can hold 2,000 gallons of water; and that the new engine can be utilized at any location when other trucks are out for maintenance.

During the discussion, Committee Members raised questions and concerns regarding the total cost of the new engine; manufacturing timeline; whether the increase in PEOSHA expenditures will be annual; payment options and financing for the new truck; and any equipment coming out of service.

Mr. Day and Mr. Wetter addressed questions and concerns advising that the total cost of the new truck would be $800,000 inclusive and would be in service upon delivery. They further added that completion would take approximately one year to eighteen months. Chief Paradiso further explained that the box truck (Special Service 21) would be taken out of service.

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Chief Paradiso, Mr. Day and Mr. Wetter left the meeting at this time (5:30 p.m.)

Discussion continued regarding the fire company's requests including benefits to purchasing a new truck this year; opportunity to negotiate price with the manufacturer; opportunity to sell the retiring apparatus; grant opportunities for the purchase of a new truck; impact, if any, of the purchase on the tax rate; and authorizing half of the PEOSHA increase. It was the consensus to carry discussion to the next budget meeting including follow up as to when Special Service 21 would be coming out of service, as additional information was required.

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At this time, Mr. Pandos explained that the State's FAST system is still not ready and the impact to the budget process. Mr. Hutchins commented on the potential financial implication of the delay regarding the Township's refinancing. Mr. Hutchins referred to his February 3, 2020 memo summarizing amendments to the Capital Budget including the addition of Manchester and Bristol Roads. He continued that the increase to the tax rate is at .38%.

Mr. Hutchins also informed Committee Members that Township Auditor, Robert Swisher, has advised that the Township will soon receive the certification of funds of the Township's portion from the Flemington-Raritan Parks Commission.

Next budget meeting scheduled for February 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There was no public in attendance.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Kuhl asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion by Gilbert, seconded by Reiner
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fania

Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk