

**CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP**  
**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRAURY 18, 2023**  
**8:00 AM**

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 8:00 a.m. Committeemen Bomba, Brown, Dennis, Shaw and Pelura were present. Also present at this meeting were C. Ehret-CMFO, A. Crist-Treasurer, B. Kelly-Finance Clerk, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk.

Mayor Pelura called the meeting to order, he read the **Opening Public Meeting Act**. Mayor Pelura led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and roll call was taken.

Mrs. Ehret reviewed with the Committee the changes from the last meeting. She gave an overview of the budget so far.

Jack Palumbo, Construction Official came to the table to review his budget. He started with UCC. Line by line the Committee reviewed his budget. Mr. Palumbo spoke to the Committee on stipends for the Inspectors. He said at the time the budget was put together Steve Cosaboon from Sickels gave him the insight on what is scheduled for this year coming. Mr. Palumbo said ½ is paid when the warehouse starts and the other half with it is built. He said he was told there is between 5 to 8 warehouses coming in 2023. After discussion Mayor Pelura said the whole amount should be put in the budget so we are not looking for money next year. Mr. Brown agreed. Mr. Palumbo said he left the vehicles open because he was not sure what to do. Currently, Mr. Palumbo has two vehicles that were approved for the Police Department. He said as long as the vehicles are 4-wheel drive due to going on work sites he is ok with type of vehicle. Mayor Pelura explained the money collected in the UCC office has to cover expenses in the office and what is left has to be spent by us or sent to the State.

Mr. Palumbo moved on to discuss working more hours than he is scheduled. He said he comes in extra early so he can get work done and have time for inspections. He said he is looking at doing full time of 6 am to 1 pm or 35 hours a week. He mentioned that he discussed this with the former Mayor last year. Mayor Pelura said the Committee will discuss this further. The Mayor said the Industrial Commission is heavy in making contacts to bring in businesses also. Lastly, Mr. Palumbo discussed the deck on the Annex building. He said he received a few quotes for replacement and or repair of the decking. Mr. Palumbo said Tri-County Real Estate Maintenance Co. was who he chose to go with. They did the work on the inside of the building and did a great job. They feel it can be repaired. Mr. Palumbo said the Committee may have to increase the cost by 30% due to the cost of materials are higher than when he put the budget papers together. Mr. Palumbo thanked the Committee and left the meeting.

Chief Ted Stranahan Sr. came before the Committee to present the budget for the Fire Dept. Mr. Stranahan started with stating their budget has been flat for a few years. They use to respond to about 300 fires a year now it's about 700 per year. All the equipment has taken an extreme beating over the past few years. Mr. Stranahan mentioned it will be about 16 months before they get a new fire truck. There is not enough money in their account to cover the repairs on the old equipment. He mentioned they are already down \$15,000 for repairs to the fire truck due to a pump failure. The Committee reviewed line by line of the budget. An additional line will be added for mandatory testing in the amount of \$8,500.

Mr. Brown suggested increasing their vehicle maintenance to \$35,000. Mr. Stranahan said the Fire Department applied for a grant for turnout gear in the amount of \$48,000. They would like to see each fireperson have two sets of turnout gear. When asked about the cost he said it would be about \$150,000 to do they all at one time. Turnout gear lasts about ten years.

Capital items was discussed. Hurst tools all battery powered, what they have is attached to the fire truck. Mr. Stranahan discussed needing a four-wheel drive truck. He said they received two old police vehicles but they cannot pull a boat. There were 17 boat rescues last year. This vehicle would be used by the Chief. Mr. Bomba said we should purchase three or four vehicles with UCC money and give to the Fire Dept. Mayor Pelura said UCC has to keep the vehicles for a few years first before moving them around. Mr. Stranahan discussed the back up generator. He said a new one is about \$38,000. He spoke on the doors for the fire house needing repairs so they took the money from last year and repaired the doors as best they could. It is to the point where band aids will not work. There are 8 doors. Mr. Brown said do two a year until all are replaced. Mr. Stranahan asked about painting of the building inside and out. He said for future the brush truck is going to have to be replaced. It is a 1990 vehicle. They will look for grants.

Mr. Stranahan discussed man power for the future. He said it is going to come to having to pay for fire fighters. Each fire fighter needs 290 hours of training then the hands-on training. He discussed in house fire inspections. Currently, the State does them and keeps all the money. He said Swedesboro, Woolwich and Logan all do in house inspections. Lastly, Mr. Stranahan discussed the regional ambulance service. He said if we contract again, it could cost upwards of \$350,000. Mr. Brown said the problem is some municipalities do not have an ambulance service and they relay on everyone else, with paid services, to pick up and transport their people. If all the municipalities were involved then the cost would be less.

Mr. Stranahan discussed the budget for Fire Business. The air conditioning needs to be upgraded. He will send the quote over next week. He mentioned the floors in the fire station where the trucks park as needing updating. Also, there is an electrical sub-panel that needs to be replaced. There was a discussion of money in their budget or under Buildings and Grounds. A meeting will be had with Mr. Santogrossi Public Works Manager.

Next up was Ted Stranahan Jr to discuss the Ambulance budget. The paid ambulance contract is in place until July of 2026. He mentioned that by this time next year they should have two new ambulances. Currently they are working with only one ambulance. Mr. Bomba asked if their vehicle maintenance amount should be more, \$17,000. Mr. Brown suggested the JIF Safety money could be used for gloves and vests. The Committee reviewed the Capital requests. The first was Stryker AED. He said they would like to replace all the AED's in the three ambulances. There is an additional amount so the machines will work with the Hospital. Mr. Brown asked about the American Rescue monies we received. Mr. Stranahan Jr. said he thinks the Police use the same ones and they should be replaced as well. He then reviewed a list of Northern Tool & equipment for replacing. Mr. Stranahan Sr. mentioned road repair on Division and E St. Anything that can be done would be great. They all left the meeting.

Mayor Pelura said we are going to need more meetings. He said Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 am and Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> before the Committee meeting at 4:30.

Mayor Pelura said in review, Mr. Palumbo made sense today with him going full time. Employee raises need to be discussed. He mentioned the Clerk and Assessor are both doing more work and he would like to increase their salaries.

Mayor Pelura spoke of the Dog Park. He mentioned rules and regulations for the park that will go on a sign. He asked the members to review the notice and see if there is anything that needs to be added or changed. Mayor Pelura said an ordinance will have to be done also.

There was discussion on the Planning Board. Mrs. Proffitt said she spoke to the Secretary about the budget. She said the schooling will need to be increased to at the minimum \$750.00. There are six new members who need to take the training. Mrs. Proffitt also mentioned that Ms. Earnest is scheduled two days a week but is working a lot more hours due to warehouses. She thinks it is about 25 to 30 hours a week.

Mayor Pelura moved on to **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bomba to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brown. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 am.

3-1-2023  
Approved:

  
June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk