

March 7, 2017

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 33 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, NJ

Members Present: Mayor Corcoran, Committeemen Henderson, Hughes, Bruning

Members Absent D'Angeli (excused)

Also Present: Clerk Fedish, Attorney Kurnos, Road Foreman Macko, CFO Magura

Mayor Corcoran opened the meeting stating that it was being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

**Minutes** - Motion by Henderson, seconded by Hughes, to accept and place on file the minutes of February 21, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

### **2017 Municipal Budget**

**Exceed Cap Ordinance** - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Henderson, to introduce the following Ordinance and set the public hearing date of March 21, 2017:

CALENDAR YEAR 2017 - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 1.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two (2) succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette in the County of Sussex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2017 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 3% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$38,069.00 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two (2) succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette in the County of Sussex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring that in the CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lafayette shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$44,414.00, and that the CY 2017 municipal budget for the Township of Lafayette be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two (2) succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within five (5) days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within five (5) days after such adoption.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Self-Examination of Budget Resolution** - Motion by Hughes, seconded by Henderson, to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Township of Lafayette has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2017 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the Township Committee has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated.
  - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth.
  - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Introduction of 2017 Municipal Budget** - Motion by Henderson, seconded by Bruning, to introduce the 2017 Municipal Budget and set the public hearing date of April 4, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Elizabethtown Gas Presentation** Tina Earley Gary Marmo

Mr. Marmo explained the expansion planned along Routes 94 and 15. He said it would be approximately two and a half (2-1/2) miles from 144 Route 94 heading north to Route 15 and south on Route 15. Mr. Marmo said the owners of Olde Lafayette Village expressed interest in connecting to the gas line; and he will discuss this with other business owners.

Hughes noted the businesses in the center of Lafayette has expressed interest in the gas line. Mr. Marmo will contact the businesses.

## Reports

**Tax Collector** - For February 2017

Lieu of Tax	\$434.73
Prior Year Taxes	\$9,381.29
Current Year Taxes	\$1,527,801.51
Interest	\$1,108.66
Total	\$1,538,726.19

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bruning, to accept the Tax Collector's report as submitted. Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Transfers Resolution** - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Henderson, to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, there is a need for adjustments to the 2016 municipal budget appropriations; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:4-59 permits that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the fiscal year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances to those which are expected to be insufficient during the first three (3) months of the succeeding year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette that the following transfers be made in the amounts so noted:

<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>To</u>
Land Use o/e	\$8,000.00	COAH o/e
Gasoline & Diesel	600.00	Aid to Volunteer Fire Company
Total Transfers	\$8,600.00	

Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

### **Committee Reports**

**Fire Department** - Henderson reported the Fire Department responded to three (3) calls in February.

Motion by Henderson, seconded by Hughes, to appoint Logan Drake as a regular member to the Lafayette Township Fire Department. Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

**Land Use Board** - Corcoran reviewed the meeting of February 23, 2017.

**Board of Health** - Corcoran reviewed the meeting of February 27, 2017.

**Streets and Roads** - Road Foreman Macko reviewed his report.

A discussion ensued garbage collection. Bruning reported that based on the costs to other municipalities the Township should continue to collect residential garbage. Road Foreman Macko was asked to pursue the purchase of a used garbage truck.

### **Correspondence**

From: Rhona Beadle, Ginnies' House re: National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### **Old Business**

**Puppy Mill Ordinance** - It was the consensus of the Committee not to adopt a puppy mill ordinance.

**Holiday Lighting** - This issue will be carried to the next meeting on March 21, 2017.

**Rental CCO** - This issue will be carried to the next meeting on March 21, 2017.

### **New Business**

**Beaver Run Farms** - Motion by Henderson, seconded by Hughes, to release the Surety Bond and Letter of Credit for Beaver Run Farms. Motion carried by roll call vote: Henderson-yes, Hughes-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

### **Audience**

Mr. Josh Aikens, Board of Education representative, said the school board is trying to keep the budget flat; and they are waiting for the State's aid numbers.

Mr. Aikens said the school's book fair is scheduled for the week of March 20, 2017; and the girls' basketball team is the Hardyston Tournament champions.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Bruning, seconded by Henderson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA ROSE FEDISH, RMC  
Municipal Clerk