

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2014**

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Mignogna, Mr. DiNatale, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Platt, Mrs. Ayes
Mr. Spellman, Township Administrator; Mr. Long, Township Solicitor;
Mr. Bibbs, Remington & Vernick; Mr. Ciminera, Chief Financial Officer;
L. Bordi, Police Chief

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Township Solicitor stated "this meeting is being held in compliance with the requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" and has been duly noticed and published in the Courier Post and Philadelphia Inquirer Newspaper.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Requires majority vote of the full membership of Township Committee

Mr. Spellman stated that this year's budget is introduced at \$27,620,000.00 and we are currently \$350,000.00 under the state 2% cap. The draft budget is on the municipal website as of tomorrow for review.

Mayor Mignogna noted that the state requires that we introduce our budget by March 15. This is simply an introduction of the budget. Committee will continue to look at this budget up to and through adoption. It is, and will be, a work in progress.

Mr. DiNatale asked what the increase would be.

Mr. Spellman stated "Less than \$4.00 per month, \$47.00 per year, for the average assessed home."

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. PLATT
SECOND:	MRS. AYES
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

ROLL CALL:	FRIEDMAN	Y	DiNATALE	Y
	PLATT	Y	AYES	Y
	MIGNOGNA	Y		

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 244-14

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

Mayor Mignogna asked the CFO, Mr. Ciminera, to give the public a brief explanation of what this ordinance involves. There have been some questions about it leading up to this evening.

Mr. Ciminera: There are two parts to this ordinance that have to be adopted in concert together. The first thing is the ability to increase your appropriation base, and I think that word *base* is important. Increase it by a number which is based on a consumer price index.

Second thing is to allow you to bank the amount of appropriations, so that once your budget is adopted, you end up at a level under what that base is. The state sets the index each year based on the CPI. This year it's .5%. The ordinance allows you to increase your base by up to 3 ½%.

Now in some years the index has been 4 %, 5%. When that's the case, you're still only allowed to increase your base by 3 ½ %. I played around with some numbers, because the question came up, what happens if we don't do this? I went back to 2012, because you're allowed to bank the amount under the limit for two years. If we didn't do this in 2012, and if we didn't do this in 2013, we would be over the cap by \$374,000.00 this year, while still being under the 2% levy cap by \$350,000.00. So even though we're under the levy cap, we would have to cut appropriations by \$375,000.00, making us even further under the levy cap.

Now for some reason the states makes you deal with two caps, the Levy Cap and Appropriations Cap. Again, passing this ordinance allows you to bank on the appropriation side. Banking is automatic on the levy side. Again, why they've done that, I don't know.

Now the reason I think we need to do this each year is that just because we are raising our appropriations base, doesn't mean we are raising our appropriations by that amount. If we do pass this ordinance, we are going to be about \$2,500,000.00 under the appropriations cap. It doesn't mean we're raising appropriations by another \$2,500,000.00. We are giving ourselves the flexibility to raise appropriations should new revenue arise.

Unfortunately, when you're dealing with numbers in hundreds of thousands, if we had to cut \$374,000.00 out, there are not too many places where we could find it. Debt service isn't included in the Cap, Reserve for Uncollected Taxes collected is not included in the Cap, parts of health insurance are not included in the Cap. Those are our big numbers. That takes us to police and public works. Those would be the next places, the low hanging fruit, so to speak.

I think it's important that we keep as much flexibility as we can. Just because we're under - we would be under this appropriations cap by over \$2,000,000.00 - we wouldn't be able to spend an additional \$2,000,000.00 because we still have the Levy Cap to worry about.

Mayor Mignogna: With that I will open it to the public. If there is anyone from the public that has a comment on this ordinance, please come forward.

No one spoke.

MOTION TO CLOSE
THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYS: NONE

Mr. DiNatale: I have a question for Dean. What is the downside of this?

Mr. Ciminera, You mean downside, if we don't adopt it?

Mr. DiNatale, Yes.

Mr. Ciminera: We could not introduce the budget tonight. We would have to go back to the drawing board and start cutting \$375,000 out. Come the end of the year when I start making transfers, here's \$375,000 that I don't have the ability to move to areas that may need it. The one thing that I can think of is last November - December when the weather started turning and our leaves were not picked up yet, I got the call that public works needed to start bringing in part timers to get the leaves picked up. I've got that flexibility because I have this money in our appropriations. If I have to tell them "No we don't have it" or tell police three guys are out hurt, "No we can't authorize this overtime". It's those types of unforeseen things that I usually budget for, that we wouldn't be able to.

Mr. DiNatale, "So, it's like an emergency fund? If you have an emergency you have access to these funds?"

Mr. Ciminera, "In one respect, yes. It gives us the ability to take care of unforeseen things." The plus side is that when I do budget for these things, and if they don't occur, I cancel those appropriations for the end of year and it just comes back in a surplus the following year. So we aren't hurting ourselves by putting these extra appropriations in.

Mr. DiNatale: Have you ever had to use it in the past?

Mr. Ciminera: "Use what?"

Mr. DiNatale: "These appropriations that were allowed."

Mr. Ciminera: It was fifteen years ago where we had to struggle with this every year. I think probably before banking came into effect. I mean we were cutting the budget. This was before the Levy Cap also. We were cutting appropriations just to get under the Appropriations Cap. When you're doing a budget transfer, you're budgeting from-till and I would say to Fred, "Fred I got no "froms." What are we going to do here?"

Mr. DiNatale: So, this gives you the flexibility that you need?

Mr. Ciminera: Right

Mr. Friedman: Given Mr. Ciminera's explanation, I'll be inclined to vote for the ordinance. My concern was simply, if there was a windfall of a large amount of money, which unfortunately doesn't happen all the time, but my concern was if there was such a windfall that it need not be given a green light to just go ahead and spend it, as opposed to giving it back to the taxpayers in the form of tax relief. So that was really my single concern. It was simple a green light should the windfall occasion arise, that it could get spent and maybe misspent. That was my simple concern.

Obviously, your explanation was good and comprehensive and given a potential situation like we had last year with the significance of the tax appeals, I can see certainly why this would be a necessity. I just had some concerns. Given your explanation, you did a good job Mr. Ciminera, and I'll vote for it.

Mayor Mignogna, any other discussion? Hearing none, may be have a roll call?

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
ROLL CALL: FRIEDMAN Y DiNATALE Y
PLATT Y AYES Y
MIGNOGNA Y

PUBLIC PORTION FOR RESOLUTIONS ONLY - No One Spoke

MOTION TO CLOSE
THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 75-14 APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 76-14 ACCEPTING RETIREMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 77-14 APPOINTING DIANNA OBER AS MUNICIPAL CLERK

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 78-14 APPOINTING DIANNA OBER AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER AS OF APRIL 1, 2014

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 79-14 AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE
FOR LOIS SAHINA AS DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF
VITAL STATISTICS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 1 MAYOR MIGNOGNA

RESOLUTION NO. 80-14 APPOINTING LOIS SAHINA AS ASSISTANT AND
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 1 MAYOR MIGNOGNA

RESOLUTION NO. 81-14 APPOINTMENT OF LOIS SAHINA AS DEPUTY
REGISTRAR OF ELECTIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. DiNATALE
AYES: 4
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 1 MAYOR MIGNOGNA

RESOLUTION NO. 82-14 AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A SHARED
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE VOORHEES
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW
THE USE OF THEIR BID PRICE FOR GROUNDS
KEEPING SERVICES

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 83-14 APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM
ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC
SAFETY

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MR. PLATT
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 84-14 TAX ASSESSOR – Veterans Deduction

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 85-14 AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE
GUARANTIES FROM PULTE HOMES FOR
CENTENNIAL MILL:

Phase 1A Bond # (929283610)
Phase 2A Bond #(6203617)
Phase 2B Bond #(6203618)
Phase 3A Bond #(6203619)
Phase 3B Bond #(6203620)
Phase 4 Bond #(6203621)
Phase 5 Bond #(6203622)
Soil Remediation Bond # (3SM04865900)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MR. PLATT
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 86-14 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FUNDING

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MRS. AYES
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 87-14 RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY AND
ACCEPTANCE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTY
FOR ROMA BANK, BLOCK 207; LOT 4.23.

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 88-14 ACCEPTANCE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTY
FOR PRIMAVERA HOTEL – PHASE II, BLOCK 225;
LOT 6

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 89-14

SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF VECEF FOR
THE CAMDEN COUNTY OPEN-SPACE TRUST FUND
RECREATION FACILITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. DiNATALE
SECONDED: MR. PLATT
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2014
BILLS POSTED FOR MARCH 10, 2014
COURT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014

MOTION TO APPROVE
ALL OF THE ABOVE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MR. FOWLER
126 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
VOORHEES

Mr. Fowler addressed Committee regarding a problem he is having with a neighbor whom he states continuously puts his trash can in the middle of the street, leaves it out for extended periods of time and with whom he has tried to discuss the situation to no avail.

Committee noted that the Chief of Police was in attendance at the meeting and that Mr. Fowler could meet with him at the close of the meeting to discuss the situation and what remedy might be available.

MOTION TO CLOSE: MR. PLATT
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN
AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE

Committee congratulated Municipal Clerk, Jeanette Schelberg on her upcoming retirement April 1 after more than 25 years' service. Committee commended Mrs. Schelberg for her dedication and wished her much success for the future.

ADJOURNMENT