

Stow Creek Township Meeting March 8th, 2022

Present: Mayor Cruzan, Committeeman; Dave Shivers. Committeeman; Tom Burton

Others Present: Assistant Clerk- Bruce Porter, Solicitor Rebecca Bertram; Bertram Law Office, Clerk / Treasurer; Ron Campbell

Mayor Cruzan Lead the Flag salute.

Committeeman Burton prayed for guidance and wisdom.

Minutes were approved as sent out.

Ms. Willetts reported yard sale dates and clean up dates for the park. She detailed how the yard sale would work, including an information area to explaining the goals of the Parks & Recreation committee. She has plenty of volunteers to run it. She also reported that there were a number of dead trees along the paths in the woods of the Park. The Mayor reported he would stop out one evening and walk the paths to see what would be the best course of action for removal. Ms. Willetts also reported that she is working on a number of grants that would fund the improvements for the Park. She said she would keep the Committee informed on the progress.

The Mayor reported that the Senior Center would be reopening soon after a deep cleaning has been performed. He also reported that the CDC is exploring other sources for animal shelter.

Mr. Burton reported said the E Waste needed to be emptied. He said he would follow up on the website development. He reported he received a quote on additional lighting at the Convenience Center at the cardboard recycle station at a cost of \$760.00 by. The Treasurer certified that the funds are available. A motion was made (Shiver, Burton) to have the light installed by Shawn Carlisle.

Mr. Shivers reported that the CDC said there was a grant program in place for the financing of new septic systems to be installed in the county. He also reported that the CDC recommended that everyone would go to the Cumberland County Website and click on the support for the broadband upgrade in the County.

The Committee discussed the phone needs of the Housing Officer. The Treasurer certified that monies were available for a dedicated phone line or a shared service with Quinton Township at a cost of \$35.00 per month or less. A motion was made (Burton, Shivers) to approve this expenditure.

The Clerk introduced the contract for fees from Fralinger Engineering for the paving of Casper Road at a cost of \$26,000.00. The Treasurer certified the funding was available. A motion was made (Shiver, Burton) to approve this contract.

Mr. Mike Garcia from the Ford-Scott & Associates CPA, RMA explained the budget in detail to the Committee. Tax rates are to stay the same for 2022.

A motion was made (Burton, Cruzan) to introduce the Cap ordinance on 1st reading.

CALENDAR YEAR 2022

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 2.5% 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 succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Stow Creek in the County of Cumberland finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$3,769.71 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 succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stow Creek, in the County of Cumberland, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Stow Creek shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$13,193.99, and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Township of Stow Creek 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 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 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 5 days after such adoption.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor Cruzan	Aye	
Committeeman Burton	Aye	
Committeeman Shivers	Aye	(3-0)

A motion was made (Shivers, Burton) on 1st reading of the 2022 budget.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mayor Cruzan	Aye	
Committeeman Burton	Aye	
Committeeman Shivers	Aye	(3-0)

The Treasurers report was distributed electronically. A motion was made (Burton, Shiver) to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Campbell Sr. RMC