

Stow Creek Township Meeting March 12th, 2024

Present: Mayor Cruzan, Committeemen; Tom Burton, Dave Shivers, Asst Clerk; Bruce Porter, Clerk / Treasurer; Ron Campbell, Neal Sheppard; Housing Officer, Adam Telsey; Solicitor

Guests; Megan Sheppard CC Health Officer, Chief Mayhew HSCFD

Mayor Cruzan Lead the Flag salute.

Mr. Burton prayed for guidance and wisdom

Minutes approved (Burton, Shivers) as sent out.

Mrs. Sheppard spoke to the committee regarding Health and Safety in the County. She discussed Sewer hookup within the Township, and asked that the Committee reach out to the DEP asking assistance in future build-out needs. She asked the Committee to submit a letter of interest to the DEP to be a part of any future plans for sewer connections. She also mentioned there are \$10,000.00 grants available for the improvement of communication within the Township.

Chief Mayhew spoke to the Committee about purchasing a new fire truck. He was able to tour the facility where the truck would be built. He mentioned there is a 4 year build time once the vehicle has been ordered. The cost is estimated to be over a million dollars. He also spoke about upgrading / purchasing SCBA and purchasing a cascade system to charge the air bottles in house through a grant. The Chief reported about the last recent wind storm and how the Fire Dept. were fortunate not to have to close any roads.

The Committee discussed signage cost for Casper Road which is \$980.00 plus installation. The Treasurer said that money was available for this purchase. A motion was made (Shivers, Burton) to purchase the signs. Mr. Burton said he would reach out to Thalwitzer to have the signs installed.

Mr. Burton reported that a tree had fallen across Columbia Highway into the driveway of a resident from the recent storm. The Fire Co. was called out to open the road which they did. He said he would have a local tree company come and remove the blockage since it was a Township Road. Mr. Burton reported that the Ewaste was getting full and was making arrangements to get it emptied.

The Housing Officer said he would be issuing quarterly reports on Zoning/Housing activities. He discussed current activities in the Township.

The Clerk reported that the insurance company will no longer insure the Township because of dam at Arrowhead Lake. He then went on to say the Township will now be insured through the state wide JIF. He introduced a resolution supporting Woodland raffles in May (Shivers, Burton) 3-0.

The Clerk then introduced a COLA Ordinance (Shivers, Burton) and was passed on first reading 3-0. The budget was introduced and passed on first reading 3-0.

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

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 2024 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 \$4,058.72 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 2024 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 \$14,205.53, and that the CY 2024 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.

The Treasurer submitted the Treasurers report, a motion was made to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Campbell Sr. RMC