

REGULAR MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

September 18, 2012

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule of said Council in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act”.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Powers, Puliti and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and David M. Roskos, Municipal Attorney.

Proclamation and Honors

There were no proclamations or honors.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the Agenda

Public Participation

Mr. Allen Cohen, Pin Oak Drive, spoke to the defeat of the cap levy referendum and that layoffs should proceed only after eliminating compensation practices that can no longer be justified together with salary freezes, furloughs and reduction in work hours.

Ms. Susan Handelman, Dispatcher, VP of AFSCME Local #2257, spoke to the contracting of police dispatch services. It is important to have seasoned and competent people handling dispatch services. During emergencies such as the tornado, they handled 911 calls for what seemed like an eternity and as trained dispatchers they are able to handle any situation that comes into play and to send help as quickly as possible. They have worked with all the officers and they have come to know and respect the decisions that we have to make in a matter of seconds. This is called team work. The current dispatchers have been with the Township for a number of years. Please think through the following points before making the decision to privatize dispatch services: the company that you are looking at is one that provides the equipment for the Center and is just getting into providing personnel to man them; will they be able to provide the residents with employees who know the town; will they be able to find people to stay on the job; and, who will train the new employees?

Again, please think of all these factors prior to making the decision for privatization of dispatch services.

Ms. Ellen McGinley, Dispatcher, spoke to the fact that the current dispatchers have been employed by the Township for years. They know the streets, they know the people, they know the culture. They have been trained, re-trained and re-certified in police procedures, policies and CPR. They care about the residents and are the first contact people have when they call in for an emergency situation and, as experienced dispatchers, have the ability to remain calm and assure the caller that help is on the way.

Ms. Crystal Simscak, Senior Communications Operator, explained that she feels tied to Lawrence through relatives that have been long time residents as well as an uncle who was a former Treasurer for the Township. Dispatchers must be able to keep the residents safe, keep them calm during emergencies; keep the police safe. The experience of the current dispatchers cannot be replaced. With privatization will come a high rate of turnover.

Ms. Stephanie Baranowski, 9 Tower Place, indicated that she is not a dispatcher; but rather a teacher and is dismayed that the Township is considering privatizing the dispatch service. She further stated that she has researched the company under consideration and they have had 50 complaints with 21 being substantiated and is concerned for the safety of the residents.

Ms. Jennifer Boyd, 14 Irwin Place, stated she is concerned that whenever there is a budget crisis, it is emergency services that are the first to be looked at to be cut. There is talk about cutting police officers, privatizing emergency services and privatizing dispatch services. She wants a safe Township to live in and asked that these services be kept intact.

Ms. Linda Dlabik, 1358 Lawrence Road, indicated that she wants to clarify something that she spoke to at the last meeting – the cost of living for LOSAP which she could not think of at the time. She feels that to look at public safety for cost savings is not wise. She further asked about the tax situation at Heritage Village and questioned the status of the rental of the stores on the first floor of the building and also asked about the tax abatement for the developer. Ms. Dlabik does not think the dispatchers should be privatized and has heard talk about consolidation and no one has ever explained why this could not be done. Police cannot be cut; cannot cut any more firefighters and dispatchers are the ones directing police and fire where to go.

Mr. Krawczun responded relative to Heritage Village indicating that there is a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with the Township and if you take Mason's Garage, the Trent Motel and the residential property that was purchased for this project and you combine the assessments that were in place at that time against the 2012 tax rate, the Municipal share of taxes is higher under the present situation than it would have been under the prior ownership.

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Kownacki closed Public Participation.

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the March 20, 2012 Meeting were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers					X		
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Introduction of Ordinances

There were no Ordinances presented for Introduction.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 274-12 (8-A) thru 285-12 (8-L) were approved with the exception of Resolution No. 275-12 (8-B) and Resolution No. 279-12 (8-F) by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

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Resolution No. 275-12 (8-B) was approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Dr. Maffei     | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mr. Powers     |     |     |         |        | X       |      |        |
| Mr. Puliti     |     |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

Resolution No. 279-12 (8-F) was approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Dr. Maffei     | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Puliti     | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

After Resolution No. 279-12 was moved and seconded, thereby allowing for discussion, and prior to voting on the Resolution, Councilmember Powers asked Mr. Krawczun for clarification in terms of the resolution and how the process will work.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the resolution will authorize competitive contracting to seek emergency dispatch services for the Township. Competitive contracting is permitted under the Local Public Contracts Law for specific services, or a municipality can seek permission from the Director of Local Government Services to have a service approved for bidding in this way. The reason it is done in lieu of public bidding – while there are similarities as far as documentation; the

difference is it allows for the weighting of criteria, and it is not necessary to take the lowest bid; but, the bidder can qualify even though at a higher price than other bidders; however, their qualifications according to the bid specifications are stronger (experience, resources, management experience).

Additionally, in response to a question by Councilmember Powers, Mr. Krawczun advised that under competitive contracting, if employees are organized, they can either act as a bidder themselves or they can offer wage concessions or other contract considerations that would equate to the same savings that the competitive contract vendor may be able to provide.

Under competitive contracting, the Statute is clear as to when the employees have to be 'noticed'. Contact was made to the union representative before the resolution was adopted and the employees do not have to be 'noticed' before the specifications are ready – which would give them 20-days notice. Additionally, Mr. Krawczun responded to some of the points brought up by the dispatchers; at the first meeting with the union representative and some of the executive members it was pointed out that management would be open to any type of cost-savings conversation. Mr. Krawczun was asked about the fact that if the employees open their contract they immediately go onto the matrix for health benefits contributions, was asked to provide that calculation and what the savings would be. The savings came to under \$10,000. Second, at the second meeting, he advised them that they would have to go further and perhaps consider a wage give back on the cost of living increase and that, too, was a small amount, about \$35,000, combining blue and white collar unions as both were considered in the calculations, not just the dispatchers. When talking about the \$350,000 – when we talked about how much savings we would have to produce, we talked about it in general terms because what the process will do is provide the Township with a proposal from a vendor that will indicate what their cost would be. So, as upsetting and difficult as this may be, we may go through this process and the savings will perhaps be \$5,000 or it can be \$200,000 in savings. But, we will not know that until we go through the process.

So, if this resolution is approved, the Township will use competitive contracting, the employees have been involved and are welcomed to be involved to generate cost efficiencies.

Mr. Krawczun further pointed out that earlier it was mentioned that any savings would come off the amount to be raised by taxation. It does not come off the 'gap' for what the Township is over on the tax cap levy. But, it would provide for us to do, is take those savings and reduce the amount to be raised by taxes. There is a direct savings to the taxpayer.

In response to questioning, Mr. Krawczun assured the Council that the specifications would include criteria to allow for the present dispatchers to submit a bid.

Mr. Krawczun further elaborated on the fact that he does not want anyone to think this is something that is disparaging about the dispatchers. This is not. This is a budget problem. This is not about whether we presently have good service or bad service. We have great service. However, we need to look at every possibility.

Councilmember Lewis asked about continued conversations about consolidation and was advised that long term conversations about consolidation have taken place and it was pointed out by Mr. Krawczun that if there were to be consolidation and had he met with the Department of Personnel and some of the other surrounding towns that would be interested in participating and it is clearly our understanding that both Civil Service and non-Civil Service employees all get the protection as if they were Civil Service employees, including seniority. So, as much as our dispatchers may be proponents of consolidation, it would clearly be that all of our dispatchers would not remain employees after consolidation as some would not have the seniority to maintain their positions under Civil Service rules.

The vote was then taken as previously indicated.

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

The following resolution was presented to reject the bid for the Princeton Pike Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Lighting System and was moved, seconded and approved by the vote indicated below.

Mr. Krawczun advised that this project would be funded through a grant received from Bristol-Myers Squibb. The bids came in higher than expected and having only received one bid it was thought that there may be some efficiencies gained by amending the specifications. Due to these factors, it is recommended that the bid be rejected.

Resolution No. 286-12

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Princeton Pike Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Lighting System**; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received, opened and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the bid amount substantially exceeds the Municipal Engineer's cost estimate and the budgeted amount for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has further determined that the scope of the work for the project must be substantially revised so as to reduce the cost of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the bid received for the Princeton Pike Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Lighting System is hereby rejected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2a, b and d, due to the fact that the bid substantially exceeds the engineer's cost estimate and the budget amount for the project and the specifications must be substantially revised so as to reduce the cost of the project.

Adopted: September 18, 2012

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X						
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE"

Mr. Krawczun advised Council that the ordinance will authorize the sale of Township-owned land to contiguous property owners with certain restrictions relative to use of the property after the purchase; it must be consolidated with the existing/adjoining lot and is deed-restricted from being subdivided and being utilized for construction of a building. It is, however, approved for accessory buildings, such as sheds and the like. Additionally, it will provide for the reimbursement of legal fees in the amount of \$500.

Linda Dlabik, 1358 Lawrence Road, asked the number of properties included in the ordinance and was advised that it includes 20 parcels of varying sizes.

Herb Klei, 123 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road, inquired if the properties are already slated for sale in this ordinance and was advised by Mr. Krawczun, that they are and the ordinance stipulates the exact properties. Further, these

properties are considered to be too small for building lots and will be incorporated into the tax base.

Ordinance No. 2136-12

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF
CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE,
COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

WHEREAS, certain land as described hereafter more particularly as owned by the Township of Lawrence but not needed for public use, and said municipality desires to sell said land by private sale in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-12(b) and 40A:12-13.2; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that the said sale is in each instance a parcel both less than the minimum size required for development under the Land Use Ordinance, and without any capital improvements thereon, and must therefore be offered for purchase to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto on the basis of first refusal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-13.2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, that:

(1) The Township Clerk is authorized, subject to the terms and conditions hereafter set forth, to offer for private sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b) all of the Township's right, title and interest in and to the certain land at the assessed value, hereby determined to be the fair market value thereof, to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto, as per the attached list.

(2) This Ordinance shall be published twice in a newspaper approved for legal publications, once not less than seven (7) days prior to the public hearing thereof in accordance with law applicable to the adoption of ordinances generally, and a second time within five (5) days after adoption hereof, at which time it shall also be posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall of the Township of Lawrence and remain so posted for at least twenty (20) days thereafter. Sworn proof of such publication shall be filed by the Township Clerk with the Director of the State Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

(3) Offers by such contiguous owner(s) to purchase the said contiguous parcel may be made in writing addressed to the Township Manager, Township of Lawrence, 2207 Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville NJ 08648, for a period of twenty (20) days following the second advertisement hereof. The Township reserves the right to reject all bids in each instance where the highest bid is not

accepted, and to re-advertise the parcel concerned for public sale following reconsideration within thirty (30) days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

(4) In the event that more than one bid is received for the parcel from multiple contiguous owners thereof, only the highest such bid will be considered for acceptance or rejection.

(5) The conveyance of any such parcel to any successful bidder shall be for the total parcel without the subdivision of or sale of a portion thereof, shall be by standard municipal Bargain and Sale Deed without covenants of the Grantor, subject to any statement or facts which an accurate survey would show, subject to all covenants, conditions, easements, liens and restrictions of record, as well as applicable ordinances of the Township of Lawrence shall be without obligation of the Township of Lawrence to provide access, public private, or any improvements thereon or thereto, with all sales being "as is" without any representation whatever as to character, quality or condition or otherwise, bidder being deemed to have inspected the premises bid upon and waived any objections to the conditions thereon.

(6) The parcel to the conveyed shall be deemed to merge and become one parcel for all purposes, including taxation and land use control, with the adjacent parcel owned by the successful bidder. In the event the successful bidder is the owner or more than one adjacent lot, the successful bidder shall be entitled to designate which of the adjacent parcels shall be consolidated with the subject property. The deed of conveyance shall contain a restriction governing the subject property that neither it nor the property with which it is consolidated shall thereafter be subdivided or, without subdivision, utilized for the construction of an additional dwelling or other structure other than an accessory building (e.g. a storage shed), if otherwise permissible. The property offered hereunder shall not be utilized by the successful bidder to support an application for relief from prevailing land use restrictions (e.g. single-family residential vs. multi-family residential), other than bulk restrictions (e.g. set back requirements for structures otherwise permitted) which, by reason of the size of the previously owned property, would not reasonably qualify for consideration by the Planning Board or Zoning Board for a variance absent the additional property purchased hereunder.

(7) The acceptance of any bid by the Township shall be subject to receipt within ten (10) days of such acceptance of a certified deposit check of the bidder (or cashier's check) in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the accepted bid price, which shall be non-refundable, the balance to be paid not later than ninety (90) days from the date of bid, again by certified or cashier's check, at which time title shall be conveyed to bidder by the Township and the Deed delivered therefore by the Township. Concurrently, with payment of the ten percent (10%) deposit, bidder shall execute an agreement to accept the terms and conditions of sale set forth herein on a form to be prescribed by the Township. The Township and successful bidder may mutually agree to extend said dates.

(8) In the event the bidder should for any reason not pay the balance due as above provided, the Township reserves the right to cancel the sale and retain the ten percent (10%) deposit as liquidated damages for non-performance. The sale is subject to the buyers review of existing title and the ability to accept or reject same in its sole discretion. In the event title is not insurable by the bidder at prevailing rates by a reputable title insurance company, bidder's sole remedy shall be to give written notice of cancellation of the bid to the Township within ninety (90) days of the date of bid. The Township shall refund the deposit, and there shall be no further obligation by either party to the other respecting said bid or any obligations created by the giving or acceptance of said bid.

(9) In addition to the bid amount, made in accordance with the process outlined above, the Bidder must pay the Township \$500.00 for legal fees and other costs necessary for the property transfer, said cost to be paid prior to title conveyance.

(10) All ordinance or provisions thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

(11) If any section or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(12) This ordinance shall take effect after adoption and final publication in accordance with law.

TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTIES

BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION
1304	3, 7	Lawn Park Avenue
1306	48	Meriline Avenue
1307	3	Meriline & Rolfe Avenues
1316	78	Brookway Road & Northbrook Avenue
1506	25 - 27	Lake Drive
2302	1	Hazelhurst Avenue
2302	46	Zoar Street
2304	8	Manitee Avenue
2306	4.01, 12.02	Alcazar & Manitee Avenues
2317	5	Emden Avenue
2319	42	Orchard Avenue
2319	6	Between Johnson & Drift Avenues
2326	15 – 17	Albermarle Road & Johnson Avenue
2406	21	Review Avenue

Ordinance No. 2136-12 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffei	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun distributed a spreadsheet listing the Township's County Board Tax Appeals for 2012 totaling 164 appeals with a total value of \$61,258,400. The owner-requested reductions for their various parcels totaled \$44,484,389 with an actual value loss of \$7,865,200. At this time calculations are being made as to the amount of cash refunds and/or credits; but, the total value of these reductions is \$353,068. Breaking that out by the 3 taxing districts, the School value is \$184,989, the County \$95,640 and the Municipal share is \$72,438. And, the Township is responsible for the full amount of \$353,068; regardless of the fact that the Township's share is only \$72,438.

The second handout is a listing of appeals pending before the Tax Court. There are open appeals from 2010, 2011 and 2012. Some of the properties are included in multiple tax years. The value under appeal for all three years is \$290,996,700 and the potential loss is \$43,449,505 calculated on a 15% high/low factor. So far there has only been one settlement with a reduction of \$200,000 against the 2011 appeal.

On the subsequent pages of the handout it breaks out by year the totals and property location and the assessment amount and is being brought to Council's attention for their information as the budget process plays out.

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The Township has received a second voluntary contribution as a result of the solicitation letter from the Islamic Circle of Mercer County in the amount of \$1250.

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There was a conference call with the Court-appointed mediator on the Trenton Water Works case with the participants' attorneys to update the mediator and tomorrow there will be a conference call with Judge Jacobsen with the attorneys

which, hopefully, will produce a recommendation to the Judge for settlement language.

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Mr. Krawczun presented a 2013 budget re-cap which he felt would be helpful as deadlines are now approaching on decisions that need to be made and feels it would be useful to review where was started in July, where we are now, what things have been done, what items remain open and Council can then consider each item accordingly.

Previously discussed was the amount that the Township is over the cap of the tax levy which was approximately \$950,000. We are currently at \$725,000 over the allowable increase. This does not count any savings that may occur in changes of dispatch or ambulance service. Again, that does not apply to the \$725,000.

The first item is what was talked about originally, which is one of the alternatives and would be for the layoff of 4 police officers for a savings of \$494,000 and the layoff of 5 civilians for a savings of \$324,000.

As Council knows there were the transfers of police to the Hamilton Township Police Department and attrition of 1 police officer position generating a savings of \$313,000 which came off the amount of the almost \$1,000,000 the Township was over in July.

Civilian layoffs – due to various circumstances there will be vacancies that have not been filled in the Department of Public Works, Police Department and a position in the Accounts and Controls Department that will become a part time from a full time position, the full time vacancy in the Planning Division will become part time and there will be a reduction in the appropriation for per diem Firefighters.

Another proposal that was mentioned was the elimination of trash collection for a savings of \$2,300,000 which is still an open matter.

Various fees – for a revenue increase of \$30,000 an ordinance was adopted to effectuate same.

Council was advised of a recommendation from the Township Engineer to implement new zoning permit fees which would provide an estimated \$20,000 in additional revenue. The decision in this matter is pending Council's approval to have an ordinance presented for introduction and adoption.

Elimination of all recreation programs and a reorganization of the Recreation Department was presented for a savings of \$60,000. As a result of recent layoffs

there was a reduction of one employee in this department and this has been factored into the stated savings.

A recommendation to change the frequency of brush collection for a savings of \$10,000 and the decision to incorporate this proposal is pending Council's approval. With the elimination of the Public Works position this proposal would be beneficial because of the reduction in man-hours necessary to provide the service.

Metal and Bulk Collection - presently the Township provides the residents with collection of metal or what is referred to as 'white goods'. Additionally, there was discussion to implement fees for bulk collection. Currently, bulk pick up is included with the trash collection at no additional charge. The weight of those collections goes in with our overall tonnage with a fee being paid to both the hauler and to the Mercer County Improvement Authority. It is suggested that in lieu of charging for trash, keeping trash collection in the budget, one alternative might be to create a fee for bulk collection; but, charge the fee to all the residential units. A suggested fee would be \$55 per residential location that would produce a revenue of approximately \$400,000.

Advantages for a bulk pick up flat fee would be the tremendous savings in administrative fees; there would be no need for establishing a system where a resident would come to buy a sticker to pay for the pickup prior to the service being rendered. With the flat fee the resident would see no change from the present service provided. The disadvantage is that some residents will pay this fee and not necessarily use the service. The advantage is you pay for what you discard. However, the disadvantages are that the purchase of the sticker will prolong the process; will require additional enforcement to ensure that additional trash does not accumulate on the streets, similar to the problem now experienced with brush; a higher cost to the residents as administrative costs will have to be passed along to the user; sticker system will have more restrictions as to what can be placed at the curb for pickup and another problem will be the illegal dumping of items because a homeowner does not want to pay the fee for the sticker.

To get a sampling of what the established fees are for the pickup of bulk items, the Township contacted three vendors and the following is a synopsis of what they charge: one vendor charges \$35 and you put out whatever you want; but, that is each time you need a pick up. Another vendor has varying fees depending on what item is put out with charges ranging from \$11 to \$25. The third vendor charges as much as \$50 per item.

This update is solely to provide the Council with where the Township stands at this point in time with what has been proposed and what has taken place to date to enable planning for the 2013 budget process.

Councilmember Lewis inquired as to the current status of the Recreation Department with the \$60,000 and questioned whether this is with the changes already made or not with additional changes and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that this savings would be if the Township eliminated all recreation programs and a reduction in staff.

Councilmember Lewis asked if the Recreation Department were to be eliminated what would the Recreation personnel be overseeing? Mr. Krawczun indicated that the Superintendent of Recreation would be responsible for contract administration, operation of the Senior Center and responsibility for special events. If the recreation programs were to be eliminated there is no cap base adjustment; however, there would be relief from the \$725,000 overage.

Upon being asked by Councilmember Lewis if any of the reductions include savings for EMS and dispatch or would those be savings moving forward to which Mr. Krawczun responded that he did not show those items this evening because they don't address the \$725,000 gap and there is no full proposal to compare, so there is no way of ascertaining the savings.

Mr. Krawczun went on to explain that if dispatch is privatized and there is a cap base adjustment it comes off the \$22,518,000 as shown on the slide. So, it comes off the amount to be raised by taxation before any calculations are done. It does not come off the bottom amount - \$932,000 – it comes off the top and the \$932,000 stays unchanged.

Further discussion took place regarding the tax appeal process and how it is going to affect the Township going forward after adjustments have been calculated and then to determine the best process for funding the appeals.

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### **Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's report.

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### **Clerk's Report –**

The Clerk distributed copies of agendas from surrounding towns in response to Council's decision to perhaps revise its Agenda format to include a second public participation.

Mr. Powers suggested that Council review the material and discuss the matter at the next meeting. The Mayor indicated that the matter will be taken under advisement.

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### **Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

#### Councilmember Lewis' report:

The Growth and Redevelopment Awards will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup> and that she had an opportunity to visit the Mall and was pleased to see a large amount of shoppers walking the Mall.

#### Councilmember Maffei's report:

No report.

#### Councilmember Powers' report:

No report.

#### Councilmember Puliti's report:

The Recreation Committee discussed the members doing outreach for the funding of some of the Township's programs.

#### Mayor Kownacki's report:

No report.

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### **Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

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**Old Business –**

There was no old business.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor