

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

November 9, 2009

Executive Session

Mr. Rosenberg reported the following:

- District 2 has indicated they will fund the entire amount (\$82) for the fire inspectors issue. He stated that in a conversation with the Township Administrator, the \$82K would be per district, which would be 10% of the Board's budget and 10% of the Cash Management Fund. In addition, based on the change in Trenton politics, there are no guarantees that layoffs may not take place. Mr. Rosenberg also stated that Kingston may go fund their own inspector and he suggested that possible District 1 could piggyback with them.
- The \$6,300 State Fire Service Grant will not be forthcoming due to a problem between the Township and the State. DCS contends that the money was allocated but the Township Administrator says it was not.

The Commissioners discussed the Fire Inspector issue. Mr. Behrend stated that he had an issue with the imbalance among the districts, in the amount of inspections done. District 1's percentage is 15% of the total, therefore, it doesn't make sense not to pro rate the \$82K.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the Board should put a budget line item in for the inspectors so that the budget process can move forward. Should the amount not end up being used, based on what the Commissioners decide, the amount could go to surplus.

Mr. Orchard stated that one way to address the possible issue of layoffs would be to pay quarterly and if layoffs do occur, withdraw the financial support immediately. He also stated that the Township Administrator wants the districts to take over the funding in order to guarantee 100% inspections.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that a cash infusion would be necessary to pay for the funding of the inspectors. The cash infusion would have to come from the Cash Management Fund, which has about \$825K in it.

Mr. Rosenberg reviewed the draft numbers for the 2010 Budget, line by line. He indicated that the available tax assessments would fall between \$948M - \$962M. He proposed four possible courses of action for the Board to consider:

1. Do not pay Truck 221 off.
2. Pay off Truck 221.

3. Pay Truck 221 off and fund the \$82K for the inspectors.
4. Do not pay Truck 221 off and fund the \$82K.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that both Mr. Braslow and Mr. Ezyske advised paying off Truck 221 and take on debt to pay for the vehicle, without affecting the Cash Management Fund. The Board must decide:

1. If it will pay off Truck 221 in 2010, so that the new apparatus can be purchased via financing.
2. How will it proceed with the \$82K for inspectors.

Mr. Rosenberg recommended paying off Truck 221 and keeping the \$82K in the proposed 2010 Budget, but meet with Kingston to discuss other options. He noted that the new apparatus must be delivered in 2011. The Commissioners all agreed with Mr. Rosenberg's recommendation. It was noted that both the Attorney and the Auditor would need to be contacted for their advice on how to proceed.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that he would like to discuss the entire Inspector situation with the Township Committee. He noted that the Township Administrator has spearheaded this entire issue, therefore, the Township Committee may not be aware of all the ramifications of such action.

The Commissioners continuing reviewing the 2010 Budget. Mr. Rosenberg stated he had included a \$1,000 stipend increase for each Commissioner. The Board discussed this and decided to take those budget monies (\$5K) and use it to meet the Chief's budget request. The Board also discussed the request from the Fire Company for an additional \$30K.

The Board scheduled a special meeting on 11/23 at 7 p.m. to finalize the 2010 Budget.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board came out of the Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

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