

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
April 4, 2019

The Budget Workshop of the Moorestown Township Council was called to order by Mayor Petriello at Town Hall, Council Chamber, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown at 8:04 a.m. Attendance was as follows:

Lisa Petriello, Mayor	Thomas H. Neff, Manager
Brian Donnelly (via phone until 9:24 am)	Thomas J. Merchel, Deputy Township Manager/CFO
Nicole Gillespie, Deputy Mayor	Vicki M. Gough, Deputy Township Clerk
Michael Locatell, Councilmember	
Victoria Napolitano, Councilmember (arrived at 8:06 am)	

Staff in Attendance: Marin Pratt, Utilities Superintendent

Mayor Petriello read the Open Public Meetings Act statement, as written on the agenda, aloud.

DISCUSSION ON 2019 BUDGET:

Utility Accounts and Collections

Mr. Merchel stated that these line items fall under him as the Director. He explained this portion of the budget.

Mr. Locatell wanted clarification on the Consultants line item. Mr. Merchel stated that it is for an Actuary has to be hired for the Gatsby part of the Audit. It needs to be done every three years.

Computerized Data Processing

Mayor Petriello wanted clarification on the differences in the computer equipment and licensing line items. Mr. Merchel explained the line items.

Mr. Neff gave a broader overview of the budget.

Ms. Gillespie had questions on the utilities surplus declining and how it affects the bond rating. Mr. Merchel explained the surplus and bond rating. Ms. Gillespie had questions on the debt service and how it is being affected. Mr. Merchel gave an explanation on the debt service.

There was a discussion held on the purchasing of water from New Jersey American Water.

Ms. Gillespie had questions on the water moratorium. Mr. Merchel stated that it was unofficial and explained the moratorium. Discussion continued.

Office of Director
Water System Maintenance & Operations

Much discussion was held on staffing and training.

Discussion was held on overtime costs.

Discussions were held on equipment and software maintenance.

Discussion was held on lab services and the new required testing that is to be done.

Sewer Maintenance

There was discussion on the increase in salaries.

Discussion was had on the materials and supplies and building and grounds line items.

Discussion was held on sludge disposal budget and Mr. Pratt stated that it was the contracted amount.

Ms. Napolitano questioned the lease line rental line item. Mr. Merchel explained what it was and said it should be removed from the budget.

There were questions on the Legal Services. Mr. Neff stated that the Township may still need some legal representation with the DEP and the New Jersey American Water Contract.

Mr. Donnelly stated that he needed to leave the meeting. Mr. Locatell asked if they could address his attendance at the next budget workshops and if they could set up an additional meeting. No discussion continued.

Mr. Locatell asked about the study for the flood plan at the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Neff said that it is part of the Capital Project and that there is a proposal from the Engineer regarding this and other needs. Mr. Merchel continued by explaining capitalizing projects.

Discussion continued on the budget.

Various adjustments were made throughout the discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Petriello opened the meeting to the public.

Monique Begg, 209 Parry Drive, wanted to say that Ms. Petriello's use of the microphone has gotten better. She was able to hear her better. She wished the room was full for the budget workshops. Everyone here is intelligent and works very hard. Ms. Napolitano looks like a Madonna. It is a miracle that she takes her baby to the meetings. It means women want to be involved and she appreciates what Council is doing. She also stated that she appreciates what Mr. Merchel and Mr. Neff are doing as well.

Edwin Begg, 209 Parry Drive, had a question regarding Mr. Neff's letter dated March 11, 2019, under the critical issues related to quality of life section, regarding the stormwater management issue and what the impact is. Mr. Neff stated that it will be discussed at the Public Works Budget Workshop. Mr. Merchel stated that there have been a lot of changes by DEP that are

burdensome on the staff and Mr. Nims can better demonstrate how it is impacting his department. Mr. Begg appreciates their efforts.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard so the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Mr. Locatell wanted confirm the upcoming Budget Workshops dates and times. Ms. Gillespie asked if they could set up additional meetings now. After much discussion May 1, 2019 at 8 am will be added. Council will have a further discussion on whether it will be in the Council Chamber or Donut Room.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:53 a.m., there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

MOTIONED BY: Mr. Locatell
SECONDED BY: Ms. Gillespie
VOTE: All in favor

Vicki M. Gough
Deputy Township Clerk