

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeGiralamo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- 2. **“Sunshine Law” Statement** – Adequate notice of this special public meeting has been published in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News, posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township website in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. This notice has also been filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office.

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Mazza	x	
Mr. Hirt		x
Mr. Stiger	x	
Mr. Lordi	x	
Dr. DeGiralamo	x	

Others present: Trishka Waterbury Cecil, Twp. Attorney, Grace Brennan, CFO, Robert Clerico, Twp. Engineer and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

5. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- a. Discussion of 2022 Municipal Budget and other matters that may come before the Township Committee.

CFO Brennan began with a brief summary of the first draft of the 2022 municipal budget. She said the Township is in great financial shape with a bond rating of AA+ by S&P. The Committee would be able to utilize the same surplus amount the Committee used last year. CFO Brennan said the draft distributed tonight would increase the municipal rate of the budget from thirty one (31) cents to thirty one and a half (31.5) cents. Taxes would increase about \$6.59 for an average property assessed at \$350,000.00.

Mr. Mazza asked about Covid Relief Fund. CFO Brennan answered that those funds are not included in the 2022 budget. She said the State did not provide instructions regarding spending.

Mayor DeGiralamo made a comment that looking at the budget documents for the first time he feels that there is a great deal of security within this budget. He said he appreciates conservatism throughout the budget.

The following were discussed with regards to the 2022 budget:

- Capital portion of the budget – with Engineer Clerico present the Committee discussed already planned as well as additional road projects for this year and the various ways of financing the same. The Committee also talked about the Capital purchases and equipment replacement for the DR&F. In addition, the Committee discussed the Capital budget reserve.
- Contributions to Fire and Emergency Services covering the Township – discussed was the formula by which the amount of funds to those organizations was calculated. Before making the decision, the Committee agreed to inquire about calculations other municipalities follow for allotment to Fire and Rescue Services. Discussion will continue at the next budget workshop meeting.
- Salaries and Wages – CFO Brennan presented the Committee with a spreadsheet providing several percentage options for the 2022 increase in employee salaries. Messrs. Stiger and Lordi presented their

proposals. CFO Brennan stated that the last two years have been challenging. She said that even though doors to the municipal offices closed for a while employees came to work every day and served everyone that came to the building. A discussion ensued regarding the way raises are currently calculated for individual employees and options to calculate them in the future.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Wisnosky, 710 Deerfield Lane, mentioned Length of Service Award Program for Volunteer Firefighters (LOSAP) who qualify. She said that currently the Township contributes \$600.00 annually, but that amount has not been increased since 1988. Ms. Wisnosky added that any increase would be very much appreciated by Volunteer Firefighters. Mayor asked that the subject will be discussed at the next budget meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION #2022-34

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Union will convene in an Executive Session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b. The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in this session is as follows:

- a. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege [N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)]: Legal review and orientation; Pattenburg Fire Company

The matters discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza		x	x			
Mr. Hirt						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Mr. Lordi			x			
Dr. Degiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

Mayor DeGiralamo stated The Committee returned to regular meeting session at 10:54 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Stiger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mazza seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55 PM

Ella Malecki Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk