

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeGiralamo opened the meeting at 6:00 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: 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 stated that there are a few decisions the Committee has to make as discussed at the last budget meeting. They are Fire and Rescue allotments, salaries and wages and the Capital portion of the budget. Mrs. Brennan said the budget document distributed tonight is a second draft, with changes agreed upon at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Stiger commented on salaries and provided examples of salary increases in neighboring municipalities. Messrs. Lordi and Mazza articulated their opinion about employee salaries. Messrs. DeGiralamo and Hirt stated they would agree with the majority decision.

Mr. Mazza questioned the amount appropriated to a few line items. CFO Brennan responded that the budget document was discussed with the Finance Committee. She offered to explain individual line items to other Committee members during her work hours.

Capital reserve, purchases and various road projects were discussed. Mr. Mazza inquired about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. To date, CFO Brennan indicated that the State had not provided regulations as to how those funds can be utilized.

Mr. Stiger stated that this budget, as recommended, includes funds to pay double time for overtime on Sundays and Holidays instead of time and a half.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Wisnosky, 710 Deerfield Lane, asked what changed since the last budget meeting with regard to employee salaries. She said merit raises, merit bonuses, and different percentage increases were discussed. The Committee thanked Ms. Wisnosky for her comments.

Kory Fleming, DR&F Foreman, expressed feelings and thoughts on behalf of the Dept. of Road & Facilities employees regarding their salaries. Mr. Fleming said, it is his belief that an increase in employees’ salaries is an investment. He pointed out that neighboring municipalities are hiring at higher rates and he would not discourage any member of the current crew from seeking a better opportunity.

Brief discussion ensued following Mr. Fleming's statement.

Mayor DeGiralamo asked Mr. Fleming to compile data that would support their argument for a higher increase in salaries.

6. 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 7:09 PM

Ella Malecki Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk