

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
2501 BATH ROAD
BRISTOL, PA 19007**

**DECEMBER 23, 2010
CONTINUED DECEMBER 28, 2010
BUDGET MEETING**

President Pluta called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

Councilman Tucker	Present
Councilman Lewis	Present
Councilwoman Tarlini	Present
Vice President Davis	Present
President Pluta	Present

President Pluta stated the meeting was not a regular meeting it is a budget meeting and questions will be taken on budget items only.

Councilman Lewis stated that the budget process is the most difficult and important task Council has the whole year. The Township is facing a financial crisis. Unemployment is up and the Taxpayers are struggling and facing foreclosures. The Budget Reports have been reviewed over and over and cuts have been made and there is nothing left to cut. The Budget presented to Council will dip into the Township's Reserves making them dangerously low and a recipe for disaster.

Motion by Councilman Lewis to revise this Budget with the proposed changes that will be highlighted by Jeff Bartlett for final approval at the last Budget Meeting, December 28, 2010. Second by Councilman Tucker.

Mr. Bartlett went over line items that will be affected in the Budget. Under Police Staff. The total taken out \$44,021.003. Under Police Patrol, the total taken out \$419,710.00. Building Planning and Zoning total \$47,263.00. Public Works Administration total \$61,335.00. Highway Department total \$364,516.00. Traffic Safety total \$59,831.00. Mechanical Maintenance total \$67,374.00. Total of all combined reduction is \$1,064,050.00.

President Pluta stated that Council was prepared to pass the Budget this evening but has opted to postpone it until Tuesday, December 28th.

Mr. Obert questioned what the cut equates to as far as personnel. President Pluta stated 14.

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BUDGET MEETING CONTINUED

Mr. Glen Golembeski President of Bucks County Fraternal Order of Police questioned how many Officers would be laid off. President Pluta stated 4. Mr. Golembeski stated that the Township does not need to lay off Cops they need more Cops. Mr. Golembeski has been in contact with the PBA and they are being asked to renegotiate their contract. President Pluta stated that was not correct they were asked to make concessions on their health care, not open their contract. Mr. Sacco stated that Council is coming up with creative ways to avoid layoffs. President Pluta stated the last thing Council wants to do is layoff anyone.

Councilwoman Tarlini stated Bristol Township has the highest foreclosure rate. The health care coverage that the Township has now paying \$1.00 for prescriptions is unheard of today. They are asking the Unions to help. Council cannot raise taxes and there is no other option. Chief McAndrew stated in his 45 years as an officer he has never been involved with the laying off of officers. He stated Council has to pass a balance budget without layoffs. He requested that Council give them some time to reduce the health care benefits and if that does not work then resort to layoffs.

Mr. Troy Brennan of Croydon stated he was here to speak for the residents. He stated he has looked through the budget and he understands the responsibility that Council has and he feels that the people do not understand the situation that the Township is in. Last year the Township was \$2,000,000.00 deficit and dipped into the reserves. This year there is another \$2,000,000.00 deficit and to dip into the reserves would put the Township in jeopardizing situation. The Township has to become proactive. Vice President Davis stated she has a problem with layoffs when police cars and computer systems are being purchased. Mr. Bartlett stated that the Township is on a rotation basis with leasing the police cars, and the computer system is failing. The Capital reserve is low and most grants require matching funds. Mr. Daniel Doyle stated he agrees with the Chief that things can be worked out. He also agrees with Mrs. Davis that you can do without computer systems and equipment but you really need police out on the street. Bo Pustiak stated concessions should be made with vacations and leave the police alone. Mr. Bartlett stated that vacations are stipulations in existing bargaining contracts. President Pluta stated that to lay off 4 officer comes to \$400,000.00 but he does not want to layoff anybody. Sue Rosenberg stated that Bensalem has a huge surplus that they do not want to touch and they are going to have a layoff. Mr. Lawson stated he agrees with the Chief and hold off on the layoffs until July. Mr. Turner questioned why put it off for a week just go with the layoffs. President Pluta stated that sometimes you have to be the bigger man and you just have to step up to the plate and give everybody the option. Mayor Monahan stated that he is against layoffs and feels they should extend negotiations a few more days. The Township needs officers. Mr. Tom Stedman thanked Council for all their work. There is no magic solutions. Mr. Terry Hughes wanted to clarify that Council will wait until next Tuesday to pass the budget. President Pluta stated that Council will wait and that is as far as they can go.

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BUDGET MEETING CONTINUED**

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Tucker	Yes
	Councilman Lewis	Yes
	Councilwoman Tarlini	Yes
	Vice President Davis	No (feels that they need to give the people more time to talk.
	President Pluta	Yes

Motion approved 4-1

The meeting was continued until 12/28/10

President Pluta reopened the Budget Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Council met in Executive Session where Personnel and Litigation was discussed.

Motion by Councilman Lewis to approve the Budget as was originally advertised except for the following changes from the Manager. Second by Councilman Tucker.

Mr. Bartlett stated that the salary line will be reduced to \$293,352.00. Health Insurance \$96,096.00. Life Disability \$2,409.00. FICA \$4,254.00. Workers Compensation \$23,600.00. Total \$419,710.00. In the Police Administration Salary \$3,012.00. FICA \$44.00 Workers Compensation \$242.00. In the Detective Division Salary \$2,907.00 FICA \$42.00 Workers Compensation \$234.00. Police Staff Services Salary \$2,907.00 FICA \$42.00 Workers Compensation \$234.00. Patrol Division Salary \$2,907.00 FICA \$42.00 Workers Compensation \$234.00. Narcotics Division Salary \$2,907.00 FICA \$42.00 Workers Compensation \$234.00. The total amount is \$16,030.00. Combined reductions total \$435,740.00 will be transferred back in to the General Reserve Fund.

Mr. Kevin Burns questioned how many officers will be affected. Mr. Bartlett stated it reflects 4 officers. Mr. Burns stated that the PBA came in with an offer and it would save more money than the layoffs. Mr. Sacco stated the concessions were not enough. Mr. Patrick stated that Council should have more consideration when having a layoff 2 weeks before Christmas. President Pluta stated this was discussed long before 2 weeks before Christmas. Councilwoman Tarlini stated that this happened one year ago and Council raised taxes. Vice President Davis stated that this is the toughest vote. She commended TWU for coming through today. Mr. Tony Desilva stated he wanted to clarify that nobody came to Union last year on making concessions. The PBA sat with Council and proposed other options on healthcare. President Pluta stated Council was not comfortable with the options. Vice President Davis stated there was \$400,000.00 of capital improvements that can be removed from the budget. Get rid of the new cars and save a job.

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BUDGET MEETING CONTINUED

Councilwoman Tarlini stated that all unions were asked to make concessions the same as last year. There have been requests from residents not to raise taxes. Officer Anthony Durle stated that if the PBA knew about the request from Council for the concessions last year there will be a price to pay. Officer Durle wanted to know who Council met with last year and who met with the PBA and when for 2011. President Pluta stated that he couldn't give an exact date but it was sometime in November. He asked for help there was no threat of layoffs. The TWU did not attend the meeting. Officer Durle stated that an email was received and Council was asking for concessions less than 60 days or there will be staffing changes made. President Pluta stated he did not believe that he sent that email. Officer Durle stated that the officers were willing to give up their Keystone Coverage to Keystone 15 and also willing to take a hit on their raises in turn asked that they open up their contract and not layoff any officers. President Pluta stated that the officers are requesting to raise taxes. He suggested that their committee sit down and negotiate.

Joe Demidio of Farmbrook stated he understood the Township was under a hiring freeze and a Human Resource Person and a person for the Finance Office were hired. Mr. Bartlett stated the positions were already in the budget.

Mr. Troy Brennan stated that with having no industry in the Township it puts the burden on the residents. Council cannot make a guarantee that there will be no layoffs. This year there is a deficit and next year there will be another, so if there can be a concession and get through this year and we can hopefully bring more business in the Township. Mr. Liczbinski an EMT stated he works with the officers and they save him all the time. He feels all the officers should stay. Four cops are not worth one life.

Mr. Sacco stated Council should approve the budget but not slam the door on negotiations. By law they must pass the budget.

Mr. Martin Liczbinski of Plumtree Road stated he supports the police. He has been with the Newportville Fire and he feels that the Township cannot do without the police. Chief McAndrew stated 4 years ago there were 80 officers at present we have 75 officers and 5 on disability. Both sides must sit and negotiate to keep everybody working.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Tucker	Yes
	Councilman Lewis	Yes
	Councilwoman Tarlini	Yes
	Vice President Davis	No (more time is needed)
	President Pluta	Yes

Motion approved 4-1

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BUDGET MEETING CONTINUED

Motion by Councilwoman Tarlini to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Second by Councilman Tucker.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Tucker	Yes
	Councilman Lewis	Yes
	Councilwoman Tarlini	Yes
	Vice President Davis	Yes
	President Pluta	Yes

Motion approved 5-0

**Respectfully submitted by
Betsey Kelly-Kryven
Secretary**