

TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP

JANUARY 30, 2010

The Meeting was opened by President Andes at 10:30 a.m. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Deputy Township Clerk Costello. Ms. Costello reminded everyone that this is a non-smoking facility and cell phones should be muted or turned off.

ROLL CALL: FITZPATRICK, GOLINSKI, KUSER, SHAW, SMITH, STECKY, ANDES
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: ADMINISTRATOR GOBLE, POLICE CHIEF WAGNER.

Mayor Husa was not present at Roll Call.

President Andes noted that the Fire Chief and his assistants will be here at 11:30 a.m.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION.
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

President Andes welcomed Chief Wagner and turned the proceedings over to him. The Chief noted that he will not be making a power point presentation this year, but has provided the Council members with a booklet which outlines each of the budgets for which the Chief is responsible. A copy is attached to these minutes. Chief Wagner then presented the Council with a re-cap of the capital items for 2009 and the end of the year statistics. A copy of that information is also attached to these minutes.

The Chief stated that, being aware of the fiscal crisis that everyone is facing, he is not asking for additional manpower in this budget. President Andes asked if there are replacements that the Chief will have to make. Chief Wagner replied that there is a very high likelihood that two officers will be leaving by April 1st, and he would like to replace them in order to maintain the force at thirty-five (35). He said that they are operating with thirty-three (33) officers at this time.

Chief Wagner moved on to the packet that was supplied to the Council earlier in the week. He thanked Sue Adams for all of the work that she puts into helping to create the Police Department budget.

The Chief noted that he is responsible for four budgets and listed the budgets and percentage of increase or decrease as follows:

Police Department	4% decrease
Dispatch	7.5% decrease
Animal Control	9% increase
Off Street Parking	30% increase

He explained several of the line items in the Police Department budget and advised the Council members that the details of each item are included in their packet.

The Chief noted that they will be trying some "entire Department" training this year. He said that he will train everyone in the classes that are determined to be the best of the best. Chief Wagner explained that the one and two-day classes are not productive.

Councilman Shaw inquired about the item listed as "New Hire Training

Reimbursement". Chief Wagner explained that if an officer is working for another town for less than two years and we "steal" him to work for us, State law dictates that we must reimburse that town for their expenses in training, equipment, etc. He said that we have not had to do that for some time because we try to get alternate route candidates since they pay their own way through the academy.

Councilwoman Smith commented that, with regard to in-house training, Chief Wagner is part of the staff at the Police Academy and is well qualified to do the training. The Chief advised that Lt. Kansky flies with Morristown Memorial Hospital's helicopter as an air medic and teaches first aid. He said that Lt. Nigro teaches the classes that Chief Wagner used to teach as the Patrol Lieutenant, which he gave up when he became Chief.

Chief Wagner noted that in February the entire Police force will be taken, one-half at a time for two days each, to St. Clare's Hospital to be trained in all the mandatory training requirements of the Department. He noted that St. Clare's will provide a training room, breakfast and lunch and a complete tour of the entire campus. The Chief stated that the tour will enable the officers to be familiar with all areas of the hospital when they respond to an emergency call there. He added that there will be no cost for all of this and no overtime hours will be incurred.

Chief Wagner advised that, to this point, no lawsuit has been filed in connection with the shooting in which Officer Byrne was involved. He said that it reflects directly upon the level of training and professionalism of the Denville Police Department.

The Chief continued through the line items explaining each in turn.

With regard to leasing, Councilwoman Smith asked if buying would be a better way to go with some of the currently leased equipment. Administrator Goble replied that we are looking into that option. The Chief outlined the new copy machines that were purchased and noted that the Police Department's lightly used copier was sent to the Fire Department; it was less expensive than leasing all of the machines involved. He said that it saved thousands of dollars.

Chief Wagner advised that, instead of buying a new shredder for approximately \$6,000, he has hired a shredding company that comes in on a fixed schedule, picks up the shredding and charges \$65 to shred everything they pick up.

The Chief explained the Automotive Expenses line and noted that it is for minor repairs and expenses such as tires, speedometer calibrations, oil, etc. He said that this is exclusive of major repairs and car crashes.

Councilman Kuser asked about the length of the warranty for a new vehicle. Chief Wagner replied that he believes that we get three years but we purchase an extended warranty with the police cars. He said that the Ford Crown Victorias have given very good service. Mr. Kuser asked what the useful life of a police car is. The Chief explained that the cars are cycled, but each car spends about three years as a 24/7 police car. He said that, by cycling the cars, we get about five good years out of a car. There was additional discussion regarding the warranty options on new vehicles. Chief Wagner provided some details about the Automotive Major Repairs line. He

addressed the issue of car crashes, explaining that they are inevitable due to the way the cars must be driven. He noted that, when the crash is deemed to have been avoidable, the driver is sent to driver training classes and, in some instances disciplined. The Chief advised that JIF places certain driving safety requirements on the Police Department. He added that there is no driver's training specifically for driving a police vehicle. Chief Wagner said that the Police Chiefs are pushing the State Training Commission to do something about that.

Administrator Goble noted that the deductible has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250 this year. She added that she is on the JIF Finance Committee and they wanted to increase it to \$2,500 but she fought very hard to avoid that big an increase in these hard economic times. Mrs. Goble noted that it will escalate to \$1,500 next year, if necessary. She advised that JIF is mandating training and our three Lieutenants will be attending that training.

With regard to computer expenses, the Chief noted that there will be a maintenance fee for the new in-car camera system of approximately \$4,500. He said the system was installed late and the budget was already compiled before they realized that the maintenance fee would be required.

Chief Wagner continued to provide details supporting the increase or decrease of each line item.

The Chief noted that he is again asking for three new vehicles. He said that they were on a three-car a year replacement schedule, which worked exceptionally well. Chief Wagner noted that he asked for three cars last year and two were approved. He said that if this budget goes through as it is now he will have presented a 20% decrease in his overall operating budget in two years; if the request for three cars becomes two cars, the increase will be approximately 29%. The Chief noted that the cost of the car includes, car, warranty and the equipment to outfit it. He advised that they are re-using some of the equipment on the old cars, such as light bars and radio consoles.

Councilman Golinski asked how many cars are presently in the Police Department fleet. The Chief replied that there are 12 Crown Victoria police cars, the stealth car, a new Ford, Chief's car, and four detective cars; about 22 cars overall.

Mr. Kuser asked why the Chief does not drive the command vehicle. The Chief explained that the vehicle is made available for the Patrol Division so it can be used in the snow. He added that it has a lot of specialized equipment in it that would not be available if the Chief had the car out of town.

Councilman Shaw asked if three cars would be moved out, if the Council approved three new ones. Chief Wagner replied that is correct. He added that there is no need to increase the number of cars in the fleet beyond what they have now.

Councilman Golinski asked if Chief Wagner is planning ahead with the cars and will not come the Council in a few years and say they now need eight cars.

Chief Wagner explained the replacement schedule for police cars and said that on the three per year plan, he will never have to ask for more than three cars.

Councilwoman Smith asked if only two cars were approved, could the Department

manage with two. The Chief replied that they probably could, barring any serious damage to existing cars, which could result in a request for four cars next year. The Chief finished up with the line items for the police regular budget.

Police Capital Requests:

1. Portable radar speed sign: \$5,000. In response to a question from Councilman Fitzpatrick, the Chief noted that the cost last year, with a warranty, was \$6,300. He said that they worked a deal with the vendor because it is the third one we are purchasing from them; it also comes with the software.
2. Portable Variable Message Signboard Trailer: \$20,000. The Chief noted that the County has five of these signboards which we have utilized frequently, but the last five or six times they have not been available. Emergency messages and advertising of upcoming events could be posted on this board.
3. In-Car Laptop Computers: \$65,000.00: The Chief advised that these would be the third generation of computers in the squad cars. He said that they are Panasonic computers and are made to military specifications. Chief Wagner provided details of the durability and versatility of the computers. He noted that he is asking for 9 computers, which would include all the necessary equipment to install and run them, at a cost of \$65,000 but could live with a couple this year and ask for a couple next year. The Chief said that if he could get 6 this year it would be perfect.

Councilwoman Smith asked if we would bond for this item. Mrs. Goble replied that it has always been our policy to fund anything costing \$10,000 or more through a note. She noted that it would require 5% down for the computers and/or the Message Signboard; the radar speed sign would require the Township to fund the full amount. The Administrator advised that all of these items will come out on the capital sheets next month.

Animal Control:

Chief Wagner advised that, although the budget increase is 9%, the total monetary figure is \$800.

Administrator Goble noted that an increase in late fees is generating more money in our Animal Control budget and more of the Animal Control Officer's salary will be moved to the trust fund for fees collected. She said that the move will offset the increase in this budget. Chief Wagner noted that a lot of work can be done in the Animal Control area due to the generous donations of Denville animal lovers; but many of the donations are specific as far as how the money is to be used. He said that, partly because of that, there is a \$1,500 increase in the Supplies line of this budget.

Chief Wagner spoke in glowing terms of ACO Meredith Petrillo and stated that she is the hardest-working, most conscientious individual he has ever met.

The Chief explained each of the remaining line items in the Animal Control Budget.

Off Street Parking:

Chief Wagner advised that we have three electronic common parking meters in the downtown area. He said that this year those meters began to suffer some breakage that is not covered by the warranties and we were incurring about \$3,300 in fees for repairs. Chief Wagner noted that the company let the Township buy the extended warranty for what it would have cost to repair the meters and we got the warranty for the rest of the year on the machines. He said that we need to buy the extended warranty this year for \$3,900 and the company will again give us a break towards last year. The Chief explained that they had taken the Buildings & Grounds line down to zero and put it in Department Supplies because it was sometimes difficult to determine which line should be charged.

Chief Wagner noted that the real estate taxes increased. He said that we pay taxes to ViaCom, the billboard company. The Chief stated that we lease some property from ViaCom and pay the taxes on that piece of property. In response to a question from Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Chief stated that the property is part of the Bloomfield Avenue parking lot next to Ren Auto.

Administrator Goble advised that the agreement has been in effect for many years. She asked the Deputy Clerk to look up that lease.

Councilman Stecky asked the Chief if the electronic meters are that much better than the mechanical meters that it would justify the expense we are incurring. Chief Wagner replied that they are. He explained that there is a saving in both time and money. The Chief noted that the Parking Enforcement Officer needs to deal with three common meters rather than a couple of hundred individual mechanical meters to obtain the same information and collect the fees. The Chief advised that the Department was short one Parking Enforcement Officer for most of last year and they have now hired a part-time Parking Officer who will work under 30 hours per week and give us more enforcement in the downtown area.

Chief Wagner apologized for using more than his allotted time this morning and thanked the Council for taking the time to listen to his presentation.

Council President Andes thanked the Chief and noted that the Council will see him again when he returns with E I Company to discuss renovations to the Police Department. Administrator Goble added that she, the Chief and John Ciardi have a meeting scheduled with E I to go over the plans. She added that they plan to discuss it at the March workshop.

President Andes called for a five minute break at 11:54 a.m. while the Fire Department prepares for their presentation.

The meeting resumed at 12:01 p.m.

Fire Department.

Council President Andes apologized to the representatives of the Fire Department for the delay in hearing their presentation. He welcomed Chief Jim Crothers, Chief Wes Sharples, Chief Jason Lezcano - he congratulated Chief Lezcano on the birth of his

daughter - and Fire Captain Bill Keating. Mr. Andes turned the proceedings over to Chief Crothers.

Chief Crothers provided a hand-out to the Council members and noted that they had planned to do a power point presentation but arrangements had not been made to have a projector available.

A copy of the Fire Department presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Chief went over the Leadership chain of command and noted that there are 80 active members, broken down as follows:

- 58 Certified Fire Fighters
- 8 EMS only
- 6 Probationary Fire Fighters
- 8 Junior Fire Fighters

He advised that 10 new members joined the Fire Department in 2009.

Chief Crothers went over the cost of outfitting a fire fighter and the projects that were accomplished in 2009. (Details of these items are included in the attached hand-out.)

The Chief presented a comparison of the Fire Department's operating budget beginning in 2004 and ending with 2009 and noted that, in spite of over \$9,000 in State mandates, the operating budget has only increased by \$19,700 in all of those years. He added that the 2010 budget shows a 2% reduction.

Chief Crothers then stated the Department's capital requests:

1. Replacement of Ambulance 227 Valley View in 2010.
2. Replacement of First Responder Unit 232 (First Aid Captain's Vehicle) to be delayed until 2011.
3. Replacement of Ambulance 231, Union Hill in 2011.
4. Replacement of Chief's Vehicle 217 in 2012.
5. Replacement of Fire Fighting Gear:
 - a. Replacement of 6 sets @ \$15,000.00
 - b. Replacement of pagers, \$2,500.00 same as in 2009.

The Chief called the Council's attention to the chart in the hand-out that lists the vehicle replacement schedule. He noted that after 2012 the Department is pretty well set until 2018. Mrs. Goble interjected that there will be a replacement request in 2015 for the Main Street ambulance. The Chief replied that Mrs. Goble is correct, the ambulances are replaced every ten years.

Mrs. Goble asked if the ambulance that was burned is the same as the one we want to replace. The Chief replied that it is not; the one that burned was the newest of the three ambulances. He advised that there is a new lemon law for emergency vehicles that just came out because of that vehicle. Chief Crothers noted that he has asked Captain Keating to pull all of the maintenance records and any record of problems with that rig since it was purchased, three years ago. He said that he is looking for any pattern that matches what happened in Flanders to their ambulance.

The Chief advised that the ambulance to be replaced is a 20 year old vehicle that was refurbished nine years ago. He said that the cab is ten years old but the rest of it is 20

years old. Mr. Crothers noted that Captain Keating will go over this in his First Aid presentation.

The Chief went over the calls for service and the hours put in for drills, maintenance, training and school; he noted that all services provided by the Fire Department are performed 100% by volunteers.

Councilman Stecky asked if the decrease of 11 in calls for service is significant. The Chief replied that it could indicate better enforcement of false alarm violations. He added that the calls for CO alarms are going up so the drop in fire alarm calls could be offset by that. Chief Crothers noted that it is a number and it can fluctuate from year to year.

President Andes asked if the recent ordinances governing fire alarms and fire lanes have made a significant impact. The Chief replied that there is somewhat of an impact with the fire lanes at the supermarkets. Councilman Shaw commented that he feels there will be a significant impact now that there is a specific individual charged with enforcing the fire lane violations. Chief Sharples noted that there is a problem with enforcing the non-payment of summonses that have been mailed. He said that the ordinance is being re-vamped to correct that problem. Mrs. Goble advised that they will be coming back to the Council for tweaking of the existing ordinance. She added that approximately \$2,500 in fines has been collected.

President Andes asked Chief Crothers to explain the difference between the Fire Department and the Fire Association.

Chief Crothers advised that the Fire Department consists of volunteers who come out in response to fire calls. He said that they are not permitted to accept money to support the Department; the Fire Department is funded through the Township. President Andes interjected that the Fire Department was actually started by concerned citizens in 1926. Mr. Crothers said that it is correct that the businesses, at that time, provided the collateral to buy the Township's first pumper truck. He went on to say that the Association was formed, after the Township began funding the Fire Department, in order to buy equipment that the Township could not afford to buy. The Chief stated that, over the years, the Association became the social arm of the Fire Department. He said that they sponsor the Christmas Party, Mutual Aid Dinner, Halloween Party, Christmas Run, etc. Chief Crothers advised that the Association still helps with equipment. He noted that last year there was a problem with the new high frequency radios not being compatible with the fire fighters pagers. The Chief said that the American Legion donated \$5,000 towards new pagers and the Association donated \$20,000. He advised that, by buying 68 new pagers, they got a \$5,000 rebate which they returned to the Association; the Association gave the \$5,000 back to the Department to buy the rest of the pagers that were needed. Mr. Crothers added that the Association also donates to various other projects in town such as, baseball, softball, playgrounds, etc.

First Aid Budget.

Captain Keating advised that all members of the First Aid Squad are also members of the Denville Fire Department. He said that the membership is broken down as follows:

- 30 Emergency Medical Technicians
- 16 Emergency Responders
- 74 CPR & First Aid certified

Mr. Keating noted that the majority of CPR and First Aid training is done in-house by the membership. He said that there are 6 CPR and First Aid Instructors in the Squad.

The Captain advised that the majority of the members go through a 160 hour course that is paid for by the N. J. OEMS Training Fund and it is held at the Morris County Public Safety Academy. He said that it is only the recurring training that comes out of the First Aid Budget. Chief Crothers noted that, last year, the Governor wanted to cut that training out of the State budget.

Councilman Stecky asked what the cost per trainee amounted to. Captain Keating advised that each course is a little different so it varies between \$600 and \$750. Mr. Stecky asked how many people attend the training. Mr. Keating replied that would be 6 or 7 attendees a year, on average. He said that some money is saved by doing in-house training. Chief Crothers advised that they are working towards getting our own members certified to do in-house teaching.

Captain Keating listed several stand-by services which are detailed in the attached hand-out.

Capital Requests:

Captain Keating noted the following requests:

- 2010 Replacement of Valley View Ambulance #227
- 2011 Replacement of First Responder Unit #232
- 2011 Replacement of Ambulance #231, Union Hill

President Andes asked Captain Keating for an update on why the Valley View Ambulance must be replaced this year.

Captain Keating noted that the patient compartment on that ambulance is twenty years old and the chassis is ten years old. He said that his main concern about that is that the Ford Motor Company, which has about 90% of the ambulance market in America, is discontinuing their diesel engine for that chassis. Mr. Keating advised that 2010 will be the last year that it is manufactured. He said that he has been urged by two fleet managers and two chief mechanics at ambulance vendor companies to purchase a 2010 Ford diesel this year, if at all possible. Mr. Keating advised that he has been told that they are having major problems with the Chevys and other manufacturers of those ambulances. He said that Ford does make a bigger unit but it would not be suitable for Denville's lake areas. Chief Crothers noted that they would have to go to an International cab and his concern is that not everyone can drive a big vehicle and they would be short on drivers. He said that the only other option to going with a Chevy would be to go to a gasoline engine and that would involve increased fuel and maintenance costs. The Chief noted that they want to do this as soon as possible but the budget won't be passed until May.

Administrator Goble commented that there are two options. The budget gets adopted in May and the Capital Improvement ordinance is introduced in May, but is not adopted until June. She said that the ordinance does not become a viable spending mechanism until 20 days after the published date, which takes us to July. Mrs. Goble noted that the other option is to do a bond ordinance right now and take the 5% down payment out of our Capital Improvement Fund. She said that we would then wait until our major projects are finished and sell one note for the combined projects. The Administrator advised that she can start that process, if the Council wishes to take that path. She said that if we do a bond ordinance, we could have it introduced in February, adopted in March and it would be in effect 20 days after publication. Mrs. Goble commented that it would work for what the Fire Department is looking for. Councilwoman Smith asked if that time is shortened under an emergency situation. Mrs. Goble replied that it is not an emergency situation and would, in any event, not affect a bond ordinance. President Andes stated that he thinks we should hear the remainder of the presentation before we get into this discussion.

Councilman Shaw asked what year the ambulance is that the Fire Department wishes to purchase from Ford. Captain Keating replied that it would be a 2010. Mr. Shaw asked if that would be the one with the bigger body. Chief Crothers said it would not; it would actually be a step up from the current Union Hill ambulance.

President Andes asked what maintenance issues have been occurring with the ambulance that is currently in service. Captain Keating replied that they have been experiencing more frequent repair issues. He noted that the ambulance is getting old and it answers approximately 450 ambulance calls and 150 fire calls per year. President Andes asked if the equipment in the patient compartment is outdated as well.

Mr. Keating replied that the equipment can be re-used; it is the chassis and patient compartment box that need to be replaced.

Councilman Stecky cited a recent incident in which a patient fell out of an ambulance. He asked if there is a way to protect patients from that type of accident. Chief Crothers replied that he is not familiar with the details of that incident, but knows that it was one of the Chevy ambulances that he mentioned earlier. He said that, while looking at various rigs that are available, he was very impressed with one that actually has air bags in the patient compartment and exceptional suspension.

Captain Keating went over the uses, equipment and communications of the First Responder vehicle. He noted that it answered 455 calls last year. Mr. Keating added that there are other uses for this vehicle of a non-emergency nature. President Andes interjected that this vehicle has all the equipment of an ambulance, with the exception of a stretcher.

Mayor Husa arrived at 12:49 p.m.

Councilwoman Smith asked about the type of vehicle it is. Chief Crothers replied that it is an Expedition and has been in use as a First Responder vehicle for over ten years. He advised that it was previously the Chief's car. Mrs. Smith asked if they could move the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Expedition to 2011. Chief Crothers said

that, although they would like to have it this year, they can manage until 2011. He advised that replacing ambulance #227 is their main concern right now. Mrs. Goble commented that, with the need for an ambulance this year and the kind of economy that exists, we could go another year before replacing the Expedition.

President Andes noted that another ambulance is on the replacement schedule for next year. Mrs. Goble stated that we are hoping that the economy picks up by next year.

Councilman Kuser asked what the Fire Department will do next year for an ambulance since 2010 is the last year that the vehicle that they prefer will be manufactured. The Chief replied that they are hoping that Chevy or Ford will come up with a solution to the current problematic issues; some of these issues being caused by stricter government restrictions. He said that next year they may wind up having to go with a bigger cab.

Mr. Kuser asked the Chief what he would suggest if all the 2010 units are sold out, or the bond ordinance doesn't go through. The Chief replied that he would have to look into that as he is not prepared to answer that at this time.

Mr. Kuser asked if the 50 members in the Fire Department includes ambulance squad members. The Chief responded that there are 80 members of the Denville Fire Department and all 80 members ride the ambulance, but there are 8 who are First Aid only. He added that an ambulance rolls on all fire calls.

There was a discussion concerning the difficulties involved in acquiring a bigger cab, such as narrow roads, gas versus diesel fuel and the lack of drivers who will drive a bigger rig. A concern about the weight of the larger vehicle on the floor of the Valley View Fire House, which has a deficient basement, was mentioned. Chief Crothers said that it would have to be checked by a structural engineer. Captain Keating noted that the price difference between the vehicle they want and the bigger vehicle is about \$50,000.

Councilman Fitzpatrick asked what the comparable condition is between the rig they want to replace this year and the one that is scheduled for next year. The Chief said that the Union Hill ambulance, scheduled for next year, is holding its own but goes on fewer calls than the Valley View ambulance.

Councilman Golinski asked if there would be any value in selling the old ambulances and buying two new ones this year and postponing the First Responder vehicle. Chief Crothers replied that he would have to go to the vendors and find out if we could get a discount for buying two vehicles. Administrator Goble advised that there is a complex process to go through like preparing specs, advertising for bids, etc. She said that they can't just go out and buy a vehicle. Chief Crothers commented that the specs are almost completed and he would have to go to various vendors and find out if they would give a discount on two vehicles; he said that the cost of two would be over \$300,000.

Administrator Goble reminded the Chief that he must be very careful with the specs and speaking to vendors in order to avoid even the appearance of collusion. She said that it must go out to bid for the lowest price, regardless of what discount a vendor may quote. The Chief agreed and noted that what he has to do is go to the vendors, mention no dollar amounts, and ask if they would give a break to the Township if they bought two

vehicles. Administrator Goble asked if we would do better selling the old ones on E-Gov on our own, or by taking trade-ins. Mrs. Goble advised that the Purchasing Agent would do all the work, as far as putting it on the Internet is concerned, the Chief would just have to supply the information. The Chief replied that we can certainly try to do that. Mrs. Goble did comment that it would be a bit of a risk because we would have to buy the new vehicles before knowing what we could get for the old ones.

Councilwoman Smith did the math on bonding for two vehicles versus buying one this year and being forced to buy a larger one next year at an additional cost of \$50,000. She said that we would be saving over the long haul by buying two this year. Mrs. Goble said that she does understand what Mrs. Smith is saying and we do have the money in the Capital Improvement Fund to do it. She said that, when we do the budget, we could replace some of that money. Mrs. Goble noted that, if the Council wishes, she could reach out to the Bond Council and get a bond ordinance going, but she would need a figure before she does that. Mrs. Smith commented that she would like more information regarding prices, discounts, etc. Mrs. Goble agreed and advised the Chief to gather all the information and then it will be brought back to the Council. Chief Crothers asked if February or April would be feasible to get something done on this. Administrator Goble replied that it would not because of the time that the bidding process takes.

President Andes commented that, if we are entertaining the idea of buying two vehicles, we would take this out of the budget process and go the bonding route. Mrs. Goble agreed but stated that there are still the bonding regulation and the bidding regulations. Chief Crothers noted that the vendors that have the chassis that they want are indicating that they will run out of them by March or April. The Administrator explained that they cannot go out to bid until the bond ordinance is adopted and that can't be before May or June because of the process that must be followed. Mrs. Goble further explained the timing of a bond ordinance and said that, only when that is approved can she certify that funds are available and they can go out for bids. She added that there is approximately a sixty day period between the time you go out for bid and the time it is awarded. Mrs. Goble also noted that she would combine other purchases into the same bond ordinance and perhaps achieve a better loan rate.

President Andes asked for a consensus on buying a new ambulance:

Golinski	Yes	Stecky	No	Shaw	Yes
Smith	Yes	Kuser	Yes	Fitzpatrick	Yes
Andes	Yes				

President Andes said that the next question would be if we are interested in expediting this now with a bond ordinance, instead of doing it through the budget process.

Golinski	Yes	Stecky	No	Shaw	Yes
Smith	Yes	Kuser	Yes	Fitzpatrick	Yes
Andes	Yes				

President Andes stated that the third question is whether or not the Council is interested in obtaining more information on discounts and what the price of an Township Council

International cab would be next year, if that is our only alternative. Chief Crothers said that he will obtain pricing information between the Ford and the International chassis and bring it back to the Council.

Golinski Yes, along with other alternatives.

Stecky Yes, agrees with seeing alternatives. Mr. Stecky said that we have been presented with a request for a replacement, not because the ambulance is at the end of its life, but because we can't get a replacement beyond 2010.

Chief Crothers commented that is incorrect. He said that the ambulance is already beyond its life span as is indicated in the vehicle replacement schedule. Mr. Crothers stated that he does not buy vehicles because he wants, or needs them, but because he is protecting the town. He said that the chassis is ten years old and the patient box is twenty years old.

Administrator Goble noted that, on every sheet that the Council has received, this replacement has been on our six-year plan. She said that it indicates a replacement in 2010 and one in 2011; it is not something that has suddenly been brought up and is trying to be pushed through.

Shaw Yes

Smith Yes

Kuser Yes, and look at unit at Union Hill to see when that one needs to absolutely be replaced

Fitzpatrick Yes, very interested in more information.

Andes Yes

President Andes commented that the Council is trying to find the most practical path for going forward, not just for this year. He asked the Mayor if he had any comments.

Mayor Husa noted that this ambulance had been looked at last year, it is at the end of its life and it has been on the schedule so we need to go ahead with replacing it.

President Andes advised Chief Crothers that, as soon as he is ready with the information, he should contact Mr. Andes through the Clerk's Office and he will be put on the next agenda. He said that the meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd would not be practical for scheduling the Fire Dept., but there is a meeting on Saturday, February 6th.

Administrator Goble noted that she will need at least five days to prepare a bond ordinance. It was determined that Saturday, February 16th the Fire Department will bring all the necessary information to the Council and Administrator Goble will prepare a bond ordinance for introduction on February 16th.

Chief Crothers re-capped the information that he needs to gather for the Council:

Difference in price between the International cab and the current cab.

Price for 2 vehicles versus 1 vehicle.

Alternative to a 450 cab.

There was a brief discussion concerning the maintenance problems encountered with Chevy ambulances.

Councilman Kuser asked for an evaluation of the Union Hill rig.

Township Council

Page 13

Councilwoman Smith expressed grateful thanks to the Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad for their dedicated and invaluable service to the community. President Andes seconded those comments.

There followed a brief discussion concerning mutual aid and paid services departments. Captain Keating finished the presentation with additional statistics, including mutual aid, which are also included in the attached hand-out.

President Andes thanked the Chief and his assistants for coming in and giving their presentation.

Administrator Goble said that she will work out the time for the Fire Dept. to come back on Saturday.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOVED BY MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY MEMBER SHAW

AYES: SMITH, SHAW, FITZPATRICK, KUSER, GOLINSKI, STECKY, ANDES

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Municipal Clerk