

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**MARCH 13, 2008**

**6:00 P.M.**

1. Council President Stinney announced that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call.

**PRESENT**

Tom Inge  
Ken Cartier  
Richard Prickett  
Diane Stinney  
Sherry Scull (arrived at 6:10 pm)

**ABSENT**

Also present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Chris Vaz, CFO Linda Eden, Township Clerk Mary Ann Young

Chairman Stinney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FORMAL ACTION, AS ADVERTISED: For the purpose of discussing the 2008 Municipal Budget as present by the Mayor. Formal action will be taken.**

Mrs. Stinney announced that due to Governor Corzine's cuts of state aid to municipalities which resulted in an amount of approximately \$365,000 less in state aid to Pemberton Township than was anticipated in this year's Budget, Council will be revisiting the Budget and discussing and making determinations pursuant to the recommendations received from Administration. Mrs. Stinney advised the meeting will be opened to the public for public comments as required by law at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Stinney commented that it is wonderful to see so many people at the Budget hearing and noted perhaps Council will be able to listen to their concerns and ask questions. Mrs. Stinney asked Council if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Inge stated that the Mayor commented yesterday that department heads are attending the Budget meeting and asked the Mayor if the department heads are attending as residents or department heads. Mayor Patriarca replied that they are here as concerned department heads but are not here at the request of Council to be questioned by Council on issues. Mr. Inge asked if they were here as department heads if they could make comments, noting he does not understand. The Mayor noted that the department heads can comment on the Budget as a resident, but they have been instructed not to comment on budgetary items as department heads for their department. Mr. Inge expressed that if the department heads are here tonight with such concern about their department and the money that might be taken out of their department, maybe when the meeting is opened to the public, since he didn't see any department heads come up yesterday, they might want to come up today and give their opinion as far as how they feel their department serves the Township and why they shouldn't have any cuts in their department. Mayor Patriarca replied that it doesn't really matter what Mr. Inge feels or what the department heads feel at this point; the department heads have been instructed by Administration not to comment on the Budget. The Mayor further noted that Administration is submitting the Budget, and Administration will comment on the Budget. Mr. Inge reiterated his understanding that the department heads are present because they had such great concerns about the Township and

the Budget and the residents of the Township, so if they had such great concerns about the residents and the Budget, perhaps they can come up on their own. Mr. Inge further expressed that if this is an open meeting and it's opened to the public and they are a public resident and they want to speak on matters in their department, he doesn't see why they can't do that. Mayor Patriarca explained that the department heads can't do it because they were advised by Administration who they work for that they are not allowed to come up and speak on their Budgets and budgetary items. The Mayor further noted that the department heads can come up and speak on the Budget in general as a citizen but not on their department's budget as a department head. He advised that Administration will address the Budget with Council. Mrs. Stinney expressed her excitement that Council has determined to come back out as scheduled this evening. Mrs. Stinney informed that she went home last night and did think about quite a few things on this Budget and will share them with everyone in a few minutes. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any other comments. Mr. Inge asked if the increases will be 3% across the board or 3.5% across the board for 2008. Mr. Vaz explained that it depends on what chart Mr. Inge is looking at. Mr. Vaz asked if the chart was the one with department heads and managers. Mr. Inge answered yes. Mr. Vaz responded it is a flat rate of 3% for 2007 and then for 2008 with the exception of 2 employees, it should be 3.5%. Mr. Inge asked why it is 3.5%. Mr. Vaz explained that is what was negotiated. Mr. Inge expressed that since Administration and Council knew that there were going to be cuts by the Governor, he doesn't see why Administration is going to be offering, since they are the highest paid employees in the Township, a 3.5% increase. Mr. Inge proposed it be a 3% increase across the whole board. Mr. Prickett commented to Mr. Inge that the contract has not been settled yet and there is still time for this discussion to take place, noting that Council has to approve that contract. Mr. Cartier asked Administration whether they know what happened in the Township today that required all of the fire trucks to be here this evening to fuel up. Mr. Vaz asked if he had stated that the fire trucks had been fueled up. Mr. Cartier replied yes, every fire truck in the Township is in the parking lot spending Township fuel and asked why they are here fueling up; what happened. Mrs. Stinney asked if there was a fire here. Mr. Cartier replied he doesn't know reiterating that every truck in the Township is in the parking lot. Mrs. Stinney suggested perhaps they are here to speak to Council tonight. Mr. Cartier asked if they really needed to bring their trucks. Mrs. Stinney advised him to ask the Mayor. Mayor Patriarca expressed that he doesn't run the fire departments. Mrs. Stinney commented that in this time of Budget constraints across the state of New Jersey, everyone needs to tighten their belts. She then referred back to the Recreation Department, noting she received some information yesterday about a \$10,000 proposed computer program. Mrs. Stinney reiterated that in this day and age, this year, everyone needs to tighten their belts. Mrs. Stinney informed she was not in support of the proposed program in the beginning and is still not for it and would like to see the \$1,000 restored in the Police Department, Department 240, Line Item 2-03202 for Weapons that was depleted. Mrs. Stinney clarified she would like to see \$1,000 out of the \$10,000 restored. Mrs. Stinney added that she would like to have the balance of \$3,852 from Recreation Department 370 salaries for the After School Program restored to that line so that the After School Care Takers can provide safe havens for their children noting the little money that they make now. Mr. Cartier asked for clarification of \$3,852 noting there weren't any funds moved from that line. Mrs. Stinney acknowledged that Council commented that would stay so there's a need to find \$3,000 more to replace that and asked if she was correct. Mrs. Stinney asked what the Mayor took out. Mr. Cartier answered that the Mayor recommended taking out \$13,852 out of that line but Council did not do that. Mrs. Scull confirmed that Council did not take anything. Mr. Prickett reiterated that the Mayor did not take anything out. Mr. Inge stated that as of last Saturday it was still in there. Mrs. Stinney then commented on Department 490, Court that a contract rate of \$9.50

was cut for a Court Reporter, Line Item 1-01100 and noted that Mrs. Eden informed Line Item 2-05800 also includes a sound system as office equipment. Mrs. Eden confirmed that is correct and the reduction was because the funds were found from the Public Defender that a portion could be paid from them since they utilize the system also. Mr. Cartier explained that the reduction to that salary for the court reporter is due to the fact that one quarter of this year is already over. Mrs. Stinney asked if the court reporter would be at \$9.50 an hour or 432 hours left. Mrs. Eden informed there is a total of 432 hours of court time that is required. Mayor Patriarca then conveyed that Council elected to add \$96,000 in Department 240 of the salaries, and he wanted to make Council aware that in order to do that Council also has to add in approximately \$24,256 for pension contributions, approximately \$7,344 for social security contributions, an additional \$264 for additional life insurance policies and approximately \$16,393 in health care. The Mayor noted the health care is questionable because obviously each person doesn't use that much but that is an average. Mayor Patriarca explained that pension is a fixed item and social security contributions are mandatory. Mrs. Stinney thanked the Mayor for the information. Mr. Inge asked if the After School Program workers qualified for pension. Mayor Patriarca replied he didn't believe so and asked Mr. Vaz. Mr. Inge stated they are considered part time employees. Mr. Vaz stated they are under 15 hours per week. Mr. Inge asked what benefits they received. Mr. Vaz informed they receive a pro-rated leave time and for the most part that is the limitation of what they receive. Mr. Vaz advised that is a Civil Service requirement and the Township has to do this. Mr. Inge asked if there were any health benefits or retirement benefits. Mr. Vaz replied no. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any other questions or comments. Mrs. Scull asked if this is on the overall Budget or specific issues. Mrs. Stinney exemplified her statement regarding last night not being able to sleep knowing that Council was going to spend \$10,000 on a computer system when it was so needed in other programs and the hiring of a \$9.50 court reporter. Mr. Inge asked Mrs. Stinney if she wanted a motion to remove the \$10,000. Mrs. Stinney answered yes. Mrs. Stinney asked Mrs. Scull if she wanted a discussion now. Mrs. Scull replied no, Council can do one thing at a time. Mrs. Stinney stated the motion is on for Department 370. Mr. Prickett asked who made the motion. Mr. Cartier also asked who made the motion. Mr. Inge clarified that he will make the motion.

Motion by Inge and Scull to reduce page 62, Line Item 01-200700103702-05900, \$8,500 and there is \$1,500 that was added to that line item from Council which is to remain. Mrs. Scull asked if there were \$10,000 in this line item. Mr. Inge confirmed and explained that his motion is to remove \$8,500 and leave \$1,500 that was removed from the Council's line item.

Mrs. Scull asked Mr. Vaz to remind her what the computer program is for. Mr. Vaz explained it has different capabilities but one of them is for on-line registration for various programs and as indicated a few meetings ago, it is not Administration's intention to eliminate walk-in registrations but rather to give the public an additional option so that they can register on-line. Mr. Vaz noted it will offer credit card and debit card payments and offer residents the ability to register or apply to use Township facilities. Mr. Vaz added it allows for various reporting events that happen, tracking email, newsletters and so on. Mrs. Scull expressed this would be a real benefit to the tax payers in many ways noting it was mentioned the possibility of sharing it with the sports organizations and the school district as well. Mr. Vaz acknowledged that the school will have a use for it with facility registration for the use of their buildings. Mrs. Scull asked if the \$8,500 is the total that is in the Budget. Mr. Vaz commented that the cost is \$10,000 and Administration requested \$10,000 and Mr. Inge made a motion to remove \$8,500 which essentially will eliminate the program, the software. Mrs. Scull asked if more than \$8,500 is needed for that because she knows that there is \$1,500 in there

for something. Mr. Vaz explained the \$1,500 was on hand in case there was a need to replace a computer. Mr. Inge asked Council to take note at the change in employee's salaries. Mrs. Scull stated Council is looking at that and there is a motion on the floor. Mr. Inge answered this is part of it and she is asking a question and he is telling her that there is an increase in the jobs where last year what they paid for part time and this time what is being paid for part time is \$50,000. Mrs. Scull stated that is not part of the computer. Mr. Inge noted that it is an increase and asked Council if anything is going to be offset in the Budget or if Council plans for the residents to just keep paying out. Mr. Inge stated Council said it was necessary that people at the Nesbit Center get the full amount that was requested by the Mayor.....Mrs. Scull interjected that she is not saying somebody who makes the least amount of money to do a job that are already making less than \$10,000 a year and she is not interested in cutting that. Mrs. Scull stated the Township needs those After School Programs. Mr. Inge replied he is not interested in cutting them either and is looking at different alternatives and this is a new program that he thinks can wait. Mr. Inge reaffirmed that he doesn't think this has to be in the Budget at this time. Mr. Inge commented on what the department head is going to be making to which Mrs. Scull advised is a different topic and she understands and agrees with what he is saying but this is a computer program for registration purposes.

Inge, yes; Scull, no; Cartier, no; Prickett, no; Stinney, yes. Motion failed.

Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any comments. Mrs. Stinney reiterated her thanks to Council for adjusting their schedules if they did, to come back out this evening to give the public an opportunity to talk about their taxes that will be 4.6% if everything is kept in the Budget. Mrs. Stinney confirmed this percentage with the Mayor who mentioned to keep in mind that the additional pension contributions and other expenses involved have not been added yet if the other Officers are going to be brought on board. Mrs. Scull suggested maybe looking at just one Officer this year which might help a little, noting she didn't mind going back and revisiting this.

Mrs. Stinney convened the meeting for a short break at 6:26 pm and reconvened the meeting at 6:29 pm.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Stinney opened the meeting to public comments. Those wishing to comment were: **Craig Augustoni, Country Lakes Fire Department; Sean Davis, Browns Mills Fire Department; Tom Maahs, Presidential Lakes Fire & Rescue and George Tiesmeyer, Magnolia Road Fire Department:** 1. Chief Augustoni thanked Council for their hard endeavors acknowledging that this is a very difficult Budget and expressed appreciation not only as fire service representatives but as Township residents and tax payers for Council's and the Mayor's hard work. Chief Augustoni noted that members of Goodwill are present to speak about issues regarding fund raising. Chief Augustoni noted that Chief Haines from Goodwill articulated an important message noting that they appreciate him having conveyed some of their exact same thoughts on funding. Chief Augustoni commented that he basically agrees with what Chief Haines described as one of the most important things occurring in the volunteer world today which is the lack of volunteers because of the consistent and persistent fund raising activities that must be done and Council certainly knows that. Chief Augustoni noted the fund raising that is done and the training that is done besides answering the alarms. Chief Augustoni acknowledged a good point was expressed that reflects one of the concerns that was raised regarding the question of why Goodwill is in a good position to have a robust response and some other training issues which is that they are allotted a pretty substantial amount of money. Chief Augustoni relayed that what he is

asking so that he can be in that same position to increase his membership, keep his eye on the ball as far as training is to ask Council if they would consider at least bringing him up to \$21,500 to be in parity with Goodwill so he can enjoy the same things that Goodwill does by the increase of membership. Chief Augustoni commented that before Council finalizes the Budget, and Council brought up a very good point that the reason why they have the privilege and don't have to do any fundraising is that they are allocated money and he certainly supports that and is glad that this was brought to the forefront. Chief Augustoni asked if Council would agree going back into the allocations and look to giving Country Lakes an additional \$21,500 to bring them in parity with Goodwill. 2. Chief Davis asked Council to consider Browns Mills for an additional \$21,500 to bring them in parity with Goodwill. Chief Davis recalled that Mr. Prickett had mentioned some comments last night regarding statistics and advised that he does have a report on Browns Mills. Chief Davis offered to provide a copy to Council. Chief Davis noted that Chief Haines informed Goodwill made 450 alarms in Pemberton Boro last year overall in their total responses. Chief Davis advised Browns Mills responded to 477 alarms in Browns Mills, assisted Country Lakes Fire Company 43 times, assisted Presidential Lakes 9 times, assisted Magnolia Road 6 times, assisted Pemberton Boro 22 times and 13 calls were answered outside of Pemberton for a total of 570 alarms answered by Browns Mills. Chief Davis advised his people work very hard at training and trained a total of 24 times last year and this year an additional night was added to each month for training 3 times each month plus additional weekends. Chief Davis informed there are currently 26 active firefighters, 2 junior members and 3 additional fire police members on board with 3 applications pending. Their recruitment program is working very well and is costing a copious amount of time and effort on his part and his staff officer's part. On the membership part, the training is astronomical and on top of all that, they raise two thirds of their Budget. Chief Davis advised that by Council raising Browns Mills' money, additionally Council will ease the burden on the volunteers who are tax payers in the town and are affected by the taxes that they do pay and the raises Council may enforce on them. The amount of time and energy Browns Mills Fire Department puts into fund raising is well above what is done for emergency calls. Chief Davis continued that with the training levels required of them today, it would only be fair to bring the level of funding up to the level that the Goodwill Fire Company has to afford them the same opportunity to be at their level. Mr. Inge asked if Browns Mills was receiving two new trucks from the Township. Chief Davis replied yes they are and added that one of their trucks is going to be relocated to the Country Lakes station. Mr. Inge reflected that the tax payers of the Township are going to be footing that bill. Chief Davis replied yes they are. Mr. Inge informed he just wanted that to be on record too. 3. Chief Maahs clarified that all of the fire trucks are not here, noting that Presidential Lakes is working Bingo tonight. Chief Maahs informed that he works for two entities; one was slated for cuts of approximately \$24,000. In going along with what the Fire Chiefs are stating, he advised they do need to come up to the same level as Goodwill. He advised that to put a new twist on this, he is asking to only cut Presidential Lakes Fire & Rescue Squad \$2,500 which would put him on the same level with everybody else. 4. Chief Tiesmeyer commented that he has met some of the Council members and noted that everyone is aware of what happened with Magnolia Road Fire Company. He advised it was in the newspapers quite often last year. He informed that right now they are above the water and are definitely climbing to where they want to be with their members and staff. Chief Tiesmeyer reported that Magnolia Road had 220 calls last year, there were 25 mutual aid calls for Pemberton Boro and 121 were cancelled on route explaining sometimes on route calls are canceled because it is a situation that they can handle on their end. Chief Tiesmeyer expressed that he cannot emphasize more because Magnolia is at \$24,500 now and has tried numerous times to do coin tosses on Magnolia Road and the flyers that they are just keeping their heads above water

while starting to get more funding in. Chief Tiesmeyer noted that they are starting to redo their hall to get more people to rent the hall. He commented that the \$21,500 on top of the \$24,500 would definitely keep the manpower and equipment above the State's standards. **Keith Adams: 1.** Expressed his thanks as a resident for going through the Budget process at this very difficult time. He acknowledged that it is all about making choices and some of those choices are very difficult. Mr. Adams acknowledged he does not disagree with the Fire Chiefs or the organizations that they represent. Mr. Adams expressed that one of the alternative cuts that the Mayor offered is the appropriation for gypsy moths at approximately \$250,000. Mr. Adams advised that he read today that their three Burlington County legislators asked John Corzine to declare a state of emergency to control the anticipated gypsy moth infestation. He expressed that New Jersey could not afford another state of emergency; and felt NJ already has a big state of emergency and doesn't have enough money to do what they need. Mr. Keith read excerpts from the New York Times, wherein New Jersey's gypsy moth state entomologist says quick action is necessary to eradicate pests and unless quick action is taken to eradicate the gypsy moth which recently invaded the state, NJ tax payers must face the prospect of spending millions of dollars in a few years to control this insect. Mr. Adams commented that maybe the tip off to Council was the amount of money that he gave, but noted the fact is that this was reprinted and was originally published in the New York Times on September 12, 1920, eighty-eight years ago. Mr. Adams expressed that it seems that Dr. Headley was just a little off in his estimate, noting they now have a gypsy moth emergency still after 88 years. According to the State Department of Agriculture, the statistics are posted on their website as well as the League of Municipalities website, last year BTK which is a parasite type of organism that is sprayed because pesticides cannot be used, was applied to 11,427 acres in Pemberton Township at a cost of nearly one half million dollars yet they still have over 16,000 acres that were defoliated. The League of Municipalities website again quoting State Department of Agriculture official says, "In 2007 double applications of BTK failed to control gypsy moth caterpillars in numerous treatment areas. Many areas treated with double applications still experienced heavy to severe defoliation with no reduction in insect population". In other words, it doesn't work. Mr. Adams advised that the people that run the program say it doesn't work, and our own Public Works' department has told us that it does not work. Mr. Adams reiterated there has been an 88 year war with the gypsy moths and the gypsy moths are still winning. He expressed that all statistics say the program is a failure and the "in the know" people say it's not going to work and will cost a quarter of a million dollars during a year when they have tight restraints. Mr. Adams conveyed that he doesn't understand why cutting this program with such a great track record is not appealing. Mr. Adams noted to him this would be high up on his list and doesn't know why it is not appealing. Mayor Patriarca relayed that he has to leave to perform a wedding this evening but wanted to inform that this gypsy moth program that is being asked for this year in his opinion would be a waste of tax dollars. The Mayor stated that he does not agree with it and acknowledged it is a tough decision but it is the public's decision and Council's decision. Mr. Adams thanked the Mayor and stated that when thinking about the choices to make, they have to look back at the history and look at the facts. Mr. Adams suggested Council consider keeping in the back of their minds the facts and the history of gypsy moths when looking at all of the programs and making choices regarding the Budget. **2.** Mr. Adams spoke of a time approximately 20 years ago where he stood before the Committee regarding cutting Goodwill's funding. He informed that the arguments were basically the same; Goodwill gets more than everybody else; they are really not part of this town; the other companies in the Township can respond to their areas with no problem. Mr. Adams expressed that it was a problem. He relayed that during the period when Goodwill was taken off line, responses did suffer to the detriment of public safety and the safety of those responding. He advised that a compromise

was reached at that is the plan before Council now where the Township is paying in \$24,000 and the Boro is putting in an equal share and they share fuel. Mr. Adams explained all of the arrangements actually came from that point 20 years ago. Mr. Adams advised that he can provide a full professional analysis with the specifics that affect prudent fire protection planning, but will not be doing that. It would just bore Council and he thinks a common sense approach to this is just as good. The premise that protection in a nearly 12 square mile area of this Township extending westward to Pemberton Boro, from Pemberton Boro to Southampton Township, Eastampton and north to Springfield; it will not be degraded by this move in his mind. Mr. Adams conveyed that these gentlemen provide a great service but they can't be in places where they are not. Mr. Adams referred to Mr. Cartier asking a question this evening as to why all of the fire trucks are present tonight and he would like to address Mr. Cartier's question. Mr. Adams advised that the fire trucks are here because they don't work well without people. He explained that the Fire Chiefs need those trucks to be with them or else it will delay the response to his house or Council's house, and he applauds them for burning his Township's gas to bring their trucks up here tonight so that they are in a position that if there is something that happens in Presidential Lakes or in Browns Mills or Magnolia Road or Country Lakes that they can get that truck on the road and get it back. He noted that Goodwill Fire Company has provided protection for this community since 1818 which is 190 years and 18 years before they were even a town. He relayed that volunteer membership of this company has always consisted of more Township residents than the Boro since their post World War II growth in population where they became bigger than the Boro. Goodwill has consistently responded to more calls in the Township than they have in the Boro. He reflected Goodwill's location being a few hundred feet inside an arbitrary boundary line drawn in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and questioned why they are not considered part of this community. Mr. Adams noted there are several funding facts that were mentioned tonight by the Fire Chiefs and were conveniently left out and Mr. Inge brought some of them up, but the supposed disparity and question of how many vehicles have been provided outright to this company, and the question of payment for the maintenance of their vehicles like the other companies. He questioned what if the Boro suffering an 89% cut in their state aid decided they would not fund Goodwill either. He pointed out that with the talk of the state pushing shared services as a way to get out of this mess, here is a shining example of a program that has served both towns for almost 200 years yet somehow all of a sudden, and it doesn't work. The bottom line is that from all accounts they have been paid the same as all of the other companies servicing us and the Township received services that were as good as or better than the other companies. Mr. Adams noted that Mr. Inge mentioned that they just bonded 1.5 million to provide a new pumper and ladder truck for Browns Mills and Country Lakes. He expressed that if one uses the same logic being presented to cut Goodwill, that is not fair because then they should cut Browns Mills and Country Lakes because after all they are getting a million this year and that's not fair that they are getting more than Magnolia and Goodwill. Mr. Adams with that way of looking at things. He expressed it is not about what they are getting or what someone else is getting but rather it's about the services that they are getting as Township tax payers and residents. As to the cuts on EMS, he expressed that if in fact these organizations are unable to answer back up calls, perhaps the money is wasted there; however, that in no way negates the problem of needing a back up. He noted that a single ambulance is unable to service the needs of the EMS demands of the Township. He expressed that even though he won't disagree with Administration's idea that perhaps they need to change where they are putting the money, the fact is they can't take that money and put it towards gypsy moth or leaf collection or something else because there will still be an EMS problem in this town. If Council is going to take money away from Tom Maahs to run his first aid squad because they can't get out the door, he's sure that if it is put towards additional pay hours or

towards the program that is being cut to bring the services in-house or apply it to the EMS program, he thinks Tom will think it's a great idea because they need these services. He expressed that he is not opposed to buying fire trucks nor to who is getting the fire trucks. He stated the best thing he can strongly support is the study which is in Administration's proposal that they put forth to Council and maybe then Council will use his money to start this off where most of them all have known it to come to be which is lack of responders, lack of clear response calls and direction, lack of secure and consistent funding which would enable long term planning for future growth. Mr. Adams expressed they are a growing Township and it is time for everyone to get serious about emergency services. Mr. Adams expressed that Pastor Glass probably gave the most excellent presentation and took his steam on the Police. Mr. Adams conveyed that he started out talking about tough choices and maybe some are not as tough as others. Mr. Adams stated the way he read the proposal is the cuts to their existing emergency services on the table and this does not include the new in-house EMS program, total about \$218,000. The gypsy moth spray program that they know won't work, is \$243,000. Mr. Adams gave several examples of emergency situations wherein people are happy that EMS show up. He asked Council that when they make the hard choices that they must in the Budget, to please think long and hard of the impacts; their lives may depend on it and for him, the choices are clear. There being no additional members of the public wishing to comment, Mrs. Stinney closed the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Prickett commented that it is true that the gypsy moths were introduced around 1890 or so in Massachusetts and eventually found its way to New Jersey and down south. Mr. Prickett remembered in the 1970's when it was here and it chewed all of the leaves off the trees and might have taken eight years to disappear. The reason it disappeared is because it ate all of its food and had nothing to live on. Mr. Prickett advised that it is never going to go away noting they will come back. Mr. Prickett conveyed that he does not know what the value of using BVT is and knows that it was used in the 1970's to control the gypsy moth population then, noting it would be nice to have some professional opinions on this. He expressed that in the end when they chew their food and there is nothing else to eat, they are going to disappear but at the same time there will be a lot of trees in peoples' yards that will have to be cut down and that will be an expense to the residents. Mr. Prickett advised that he stated last year that the Township's gypsy moth spray program was not going to be enough to help all homeowners. Mr. Prickett noted that if the homeowners are really concerned and he knows they are, the best thing for them to do is to hire a spray company to come in and spray their trees. It's just something that would be financially better for them to do because the Township program is not going to save all of the trees in the Township. Mrs. Scull stated comments were made last night to possibly keeping some of this money aside to refund their residents for doing their own spraying and many people said it didn't work last year and they did their own spray and asked if they would get their money back. Mrs. Scull commented that she doesn't know how difficult it would be to put something in to reimburse residents and thinks that is a better bang for the buck than putting this stuff out in the air and then not knowing if it's going to do any good. Mrs. Scull added that this year the State is only refunding 25% of one spray whereas last year they gave the Township back 50% so this year it will be less effective than it was last year. Mrs. Scull commented that the area will only be done once noting last year the area was done twice. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any other comments or questions regarding the Budget. Mrs. Stinney asked to revisit Department 260 and advised that Council is at \$170,015. Mr. Prickett advised Department 260 is the First Aid Squad. Mrs. Eden informed Council is down to \$169,515. Mrs. Stinney clarified that Council is on Department 260. Mrs. Scull asked Council what they wanted to do about the emergency squads and if they felt Council could take at least one of the \$24,000 out of here. Mrs. Scull

replied that she did hear what the fire fighters said and nothing negative towards Pemberton but she doesn't think the Boro is any different from the Township and unfortunately in 1890 some Boro people thought they were different but to her it is all the same. Mrs. Scull noted there are many Pemberton Township residents working in that department but the fire chiefs made a good point in that the volunteers are being worked to death because they are not getting the kind of funding that the Boro is getting and that is really not fair. Mrs. Scull noted the point is well taken and added if the Township is not going to fund Presidential Lakes Rescue and if they are not operating, then Council needs to either reallocate the funds to the fire departments or remove it from the Budget all together. Mrs. Scull informed there is \$24,000 somewhere and she is not opposed to Administration's recommendation of changing and knows there are space problems and she is not opposed to Administration's recommendation about using Country Lakes Emergency Squad building but added that Council needs to decide to leave it in, not or give more money to the Browns Mills Squad or the Pemberton Squad. Mr. Inge stated to Mrs. Scull to tell Council what is on her mind and asked her what she wanted to do. Mrs. Scull replied she thought Council should discuss it together and decide together what to do. Mr. Inge responded that it doesn't really matter what he says so he will listen to the rest of the Council. Mrs. Scull stated that is not true. Mrs. Stinney asked if Council had any discussion on Mrs. Scull's discussion. Mr. Cartier informed he made his point last night; he doesn't believe cutting the funding to these organizations is the answer and thinks Council needs to find ways to help these organizations bolster their membership so that they can get out and make the calls. Mrs. Stinney informed Council heard what her opinion was. Mrs. Stinney reiterated \$10,000 for computers when money is needed to give to fire companies and emergencies is a lot. Mrs. Stinney added a computer is not going to save her life, and doesn't think it will save their life either. Mr. Inge responded that it's going to save someone's life, because it's still in the Budget. Mrs. Stinney commented that they voted for it, so go on with it. Mrs. Scull suggested that if Council is not going to do anything with it, to put the Budget out at what it is and put it out to the tax payers unless someone has a better suggestion. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any further comments. Mr. Inge commented that four Fire Chiefs came forward today with information on calls that their fire companies responded to. Mr. Inge reminded that he asked for this information several weeks ago and could not receive it. Mr. Inge noted he asked for this information through Administration and could not receive it and hasn't seen anything yet. Mr. Inge expressed that it must depend on who you are and that's when you get the information. Mrs. Stinney commented yes. Mr. Inge stated if they ask for information, the information could have been given to Council; and asked if Administration had the information which they brought up today, why it wasn't given. Mr. Inge commented that seems to be one of the biggest problems with this Budget. He expressed that it is not the fire chiefs' responsibility to bring it to Council; it is Administration's responsibility to provide it to Council when Council asks for information regarding the Budget. Mrs. Stinney added that she asked for information too and was given this in a hot second right after tonight how \$10,000 was going to save her life. Mr. Inge stated since he can't get anywhere, he makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Stinney commented if Council is not going to speak, someone might as well second the motion to adjourn if they don't have anything else to say instead of sitting here. Mr. Prickett commented that Council needs to get some more information on gypsy moths. Mrs. Stinney advised he gave the information he needed and asked Mr. Adams if he had any other information that he could give Mr. Prickett. Mr. Prickett acknowledged understanding that. Mrs. Stinney asked Mr. Prickett where he wants to get this information from. Mr. Prickett advised that he will do some research on his own. Mrs. Scull noted she had wanted to do that. Mr. Adams from the audience advised that the League of Municipalities website has a special section as well as the Department of Agriculture in the State. Mr. Prickett stated

some additional information on that will certainly get back to the Council and perhaps at the next Council meeting, noting Council could review the materials and possibly make the cut at that time if necessary. Mrs. Stinney asked Council for any additional comments. Mrs. Stinney thanked everyone for coming out and noted that she hoped to see everyone on Wednesday night.

Motion by Inge to adjourn the meeting.

Noting there was no second to the motion a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the fact there was no second, however there was no further input offered on the budget. Ultimately, the meeting was adjourned at approximately

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Ann Young, CMC  
Township Clerk