

TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2012

8:30 A.M.

Council President Cartier 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

Jason Allen
Ken Cartier
Richard Prickett
Sherry Scull
Diane Stinney

ABSENT

Also Present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Chris Vaz, Chief Financial Officer Robert Benick, Township Clerk Mary Ann Finlay

Chairman Cartier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FORMAL ACTION, AS ADVERTISED: For the purpose of discussing the 2012 Municipal Budget as presented by the Mayor. Formal action may be taken.

Council President Cartier announced that Administration has handed out a request for modification to the 2012 budget he has submitted to Council and they will represent the budget as corrected by the Mayor as follows:

UEZ (Salary & Wages)
2-01-20-170-000-110
Reduce \$5,000 to \$0

Gasoline
2-01-31-460-000-000
Increase \$360,000 to \$365,000

Streets & Roads (Other Expenses)
2-01-26-290-000-690 (Snow & Ice Control Materials)
Decrease \$80,000 to \$45,000

Streets & Roads (Salary & Wages)
2-01-26-290-000-110
Increase \$710,000 to \$745,000

Planning Board (Salary & Wages)
2-01-21-180-000-140 (Overtime)
Decrease \$3,000 to \$1,750

Zoning Board (Salary & Wages)
2-01-21-185-000-140 (Overtime)
Increase \$500.00 to \$1,750

Mayor Patriarca explained the account numbers noting that the fourth set of numbers represents the departments and the last set represents the sub account. Council President asked for a clarification as to whether the modifications requested are considered the Mayor's corrections to his budget or if they were items that Council needed to move on. It was confirmed that they were Administration's changes to the budget they presented to Council. The Mayor noted that the budgets are getting more difficult as the years go on, they are continually tapping into every

dollar that's available in every one of the accounts, and revenues year were down a quarter of a million dollars. He assured the budget does not reflect a spending problem for the services they are providing but rather a revenue issue (shortfall). He advised that with this budget they are able to continue to provide the services here in the community and it reflects a tax increase of 2.7 cents, 1.8% over last year's budget which keeps them under the CAP. He noted that in certain areas of the budget they may notice that funding is not listed in the budget but they are anticipating charging accounts that they have funding in such as trust accounts. He exemplified that the Water carnival is not under recreation this year and will be charged to the trust account. He also noted that the support to the local sports teams has been left out of the budget but the trust can handle those expenses as well. He relayed that the UCC trust is being depleted daily so each year that they budget out of that and charge the trust of items they are getting closer to having to bring that budget into the general budget as was done years ago. He reflected that the only way to offset that is a tremendous amount of increase in permit fees for that department.

Council President noted that he had asked about the Debt Statement. The Mayor noted that in the meeting that Mr. Cartier had come in to question the budget he had asked why such a drastic cut in the Debt Statement to which he attributed to the CFO's hard work in trying to clean up a lot of old accounts and the Bridge Commission accounts and cancelling debts.

Mrs. Stinney thanked Mr. Vaz for answering her questions regarding the police department. President Cartier noted that it sounds like most of them have met with Administration to address most of their questions.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to introduce the 2012 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Prickett noted he had some questions and referenced those as follows:

1. He requested an explanation on page 11 regarding the IT service. Mayor Patriarca explained that is the company they use (CSI) for the maintenance of the computer systems here in the building. Administration briefly explained the provisions of their contract and scope of work performed. Mr. Prickett asked if they cover all the hardware in the Municipal Building. The Mayor noted they do, and they go off-site such as the Rec Center, or wherever they have computers or networking connections. Mr. Prickett noted they have other agreements with the software such as Edmunds and questioned how many other agreements they have. The Mayor noted Edmunds, one through UCC, the Police Department's company, and DPW, and various departments that have software programs.
2. In regards to Solid Waste Mr. Prickett noted that Council had voted to go to one billing a year and questioned if there has been a savings reflected in the budget and if the consumers see that. CFO Robert Benick relayed that they see a savings by paying one bill and they receive a discount by paying it in advance and explained the savings is realized in labor and time but not necessarily reflected in the budget.
3. On page 54, Dept. 290, he questioned the storm water disposal fees and if they were for removing debris from storm water systems. The Mayor explained it represents the fees that they pay for disposing of the waste from cleaning out the basins, leaves from shredding and the rentals for the trash trucks used for the leaf pickup. He hopes to repeat that service again this year in addition to paying private companies to haul the big tractor trailer loads of mulch and shreddings, etc.
4. On page 56 he asked if Council was going to take action on the Administration's recommendation on reducing ice control material. The Mayor explained they reduced it by \$35,000 is that they have almost a full stock, noting the weather has been in their favor and they have a reserve of about \$48,000 that they can charge for that line as well. Mr. Benick explained that in December they passed a resolution wherein they reserved money which is sitting on the current fund balance sheet as a credit. Mr. Prickett asked how many other reserve funds they have. He noted the medical as one noting there are numerous. Mr. Prickett asked if he could get a report on those reserve funds and how much money is them.

5. On page 78 he noted there is no money on the line for background checks and questioned how they can justify not having them. Mr. Vaz explained that those who apply to be involved with the sports leagues are paying that and the Megan Kenka aspect of it as well.
6. He asked the Council President how Council was going to deal with implementing Administration's recommendations or if would be in the final motion for adoption to which Mr. Cartier confirmed that it would and the Clerk reminded that it was already presented as corrections by the Mayor.
7. On page 35 regarding insurance policies for volunteer services, he noted it was budgeted for last \$11,500, only \$2,577 was used out the fund and he questioned what volunteers that was for. Mr. Vaz explained that particular one is for more of a general volunteer organization such as when they do Clean Communities Events and if one of the volunteers were to get hurt, they didn't have that type of a policy since they are not really employees and would not have an ability to get workers comp and would have to file a tort claim. This gives a small amount of money for someone to have medical bills paid through a small policy that they purchase for the \$2500.
8. On page 37 he questioned the administrative fees and if they are the fees paid to the Administrator to address the different medical issues of employees. He was explained that is for the insurance medical administrator. Mr. Prickett noted this is just for the administration at a half million and questioned why the fund itself excluding prescription is 1.3 million. Mr. Vaz explained that they administer more than that because there is a trust account as well where the medical bills get charged to. Mr. Benick explained that what he has done is transfer money over into the health trust account and out of that account all the bills get paid, including the payments for self insurance, administration of it, its all combined and comes out of one fund and are running approximately 2.2 million a year right now for the entire health program. Mr. Vaz also noted they have a stop loss coverage wherein each individual covered member in the plan they pay directly up to \$60,000 of the medical bills and anything above that gets put through the stop loss carrier. He further explained how the process works noting that its not claims administration per se but rather basically an umbrella policy they have to protect them from catastrophic loss with one or two employees in a given year. Mr. Vaz noted they get very detailed reports and will share them. Mr. Prickett asked if in his judgment is the self insured township better off being self insured and it was agreed that it all depends on the year, noting that they have been having generally good years. Mrs. Scull pointed out that if they had an insurance company and they experienced a bad year the company would then put that cost on the next year's premium in an increase.

President Cartier relayed that they need to withdraw their motion to introduce since they still have to have public comments before they actually introduce to which Mrs. Scull and Mrs. Stinney agreed to withdraw.

9. Mr. Prickett then referenced page 41 and asked in where the police training takes place now. Mayor Patriarca relayed they have not actually reached that point yet, noting belief they have an officer at Gloucester but there are some academies out there but not in Burlington County. He noted trying to fill those vacant positions with experienced officers but have not accomplished that. Mrs. Scull asked why they vacancies and if it's because there is no training available locally. The Mayor informed they have been trying to hire five candidates at one sitting that were laid off officers from Trenton and the Chief has been working off that list to try to find experienced officers but has not been successful. Mrs. Scull commented concern with having them trained locally and hears from residents that officers are insensitive.
10. On page 110, he questioned municipal park development, noting \$235,000 appropriated in actual cost in 2011 and asked where that money is and what it was used for. Mr. Benick explained it was a grant that was moved to the grant fund and is still sitting as an available balance.

11. Mr. Prickett then questioned on page 53, line 140 noting he believed its for over time and noted that last year they had a lot of snow and actually came in over budget at \$47,000 and this year its increase \$48,00 and they have not needed that over time due to mild weather conditions. He suggested that's an area they can decrease.
12. Mr. Prickett asked how much one penny equals to which he was told \$87,700 equals a penny. Mr. Prickett then asked how surplus was calculated as well as for the surplus in the water department, noting he would like a copy of the formula used in the calculations. Mr. Benick explained that it is in the annual financial statement.
13. In regards to legal on pages 22 and 23, lines 271 and 275 that he noted assumption that it reflects the town Solicitor's costs. He questioned if the extra \$70,000 are monies above and beyond the retainer, to which Mr. Vaz confirmed it was as well as line 276 for labor relations and line 283 special attorney fees, noting that they are not necessarily Gluck Walrath, noting that Gluck Walrath is line 275, the general legal fixed fee for the retainer. He explained that for litigation costs those dollar amounts pay for legal fees that are not paid generally through their self insurance fund. He noted it would cover costs for cases such as Buster's. Mr. Prickett asked for a rule of thumb for those cases paid for directly and which come from the Joint Insurance Fund, to which Mr. Vaz offered to add that information to his report.

Mr. Prickett then announced that he had three motions he would like to make as follows:

Motion by Prickett to reduce on page 22, line 271, litigation, from \$70,000 to \$50,000. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Prickett and Scull to reduce on page 23, line 283, special attorney fees, from \$25,000 to \$19,000. Prickett, yes; Scull, yes; Allen, yes; Stinney, no; Cartier, yes. Motion carried. **(NOTE: MRS. STINNEY CHANGED HER "NO VOTE" TO A YES VOTE LATER IN THE MEETING)**

Motion by Prickett to reduce on page 53, line 2-01-26-290-000-140, from \$48,000 to \$40,000. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Scull and Prickett to reduce on page 22, line 271, litigation to \$65,000.

Mrs. Stinney asked for clarification if they are actually reducing that line by \$5,000 to which she was advised yes.

Scull, yes; Prickett, yes; Allen, yes; Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

Council President recessed the meeting at 9:23 a.m. for a short break and reconvened the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Cartier opened the meeting to public comments. Those indicating a desire to be heard were:

Rich Coster, Browns Mills – **1.** Acknowledged that it costs a lot of money to print out copies of the budget but questioned how much it would have cost to put a PDF copy on-line so that everyone could read it when it was ready of the 8th. Mr. Vaz expressed his understanding is that it should not go on-line before Council had it, and Mrs. Scull added and until Council introduced it. Mr. Vaz noted that he would have it posted later today. **2.** Expressed gladness to see around 7 million dollars gone from the debt and that maybe 2% on that debt is 140,000 a year that was being wasted each year and he attributed that to the new CFO.

Clare Wadsworth, Browns Mills – **1.** She noted that when she reviewed the budget in the past there were dollar amounts listed for the previous two years so that the trends could be seen. This year she sees many zeros listed in 2010. Mr. Benick explained that it was because of the transition in the systems. Mr. Vaz further explained that they converted software in the first few months of 2011 so that data was not carried over from the old system into the new system. She

asked if it was available to be put in there. President Cartier explained yes but it would not have been cost effective to do that, in that they would have spent hours upon hours, upon hours inputting all these in manually. He presumed they did that for the 2011 figures, but to go back yet another year their time was better served. Mr. Vaz noted that the old information is available on the web site. Mrs. Wadsworth acknowledged that she still has a copy of that. She expressed that it looks like no money was spent and the information was available in previous years and it makes it difficult for people to effectively participate in the budget hearings. Discussion ensued wherein she reiterated her points regarding that it would make it easier for people to participate and her answers were then reiterated to her. Council President asked her to move on to her next questions. 2. In regards to page 35, account ending 500 she noted \$11,500 appropriated in 2011, \$2,577 spent and they are asking \$11,500 again in 2012. She noted that it was explained that it was insurance for different volunteer groups but that's not how it is listed in the budget so there is no way for the public to realize exactly what's being spoken about or what's really being spent.

Fred Moorehead, Browns Mills Emergency Squad – 1. Mr. Moorehead gave a synopsis of what they do for the public, noting they have 8 active members, 5 riding exempt members, 4 serving exempt members, 6 riding probationary emts, 8 emt students and 2 riding associate emts, which is 33 riding or serving members. He shared that the emt course has been doubled from about three and a half months to six months and the cost has gone through the roof. The school is now \$950. and \$150 for the books. He noted the State fund will pay for the basic course so far but will not pay any more for the continuing education credits that are mandatory to maintain certification. He relayed that they provide all of the oxygen supplies to the police department which costs hundreds of dollars of month that they spend on oxygen which some of that goes to the police department. He shared that they have two ambulances available, noting if there is a disaster they will get 30 plus trained people from their squad and at least two ambulances and a building that can house people in an emergency. He shared that the new contract states that the minimum for them to respond to qualify for \$25,000 they would have to respond to 60% of all calls in their primary area, which is Browns Mills and Country Lakes, noting that last year they responded to 80% of those calls. He reflected that they have not received an increase in over six years and they need money and advocated for an additional \$6,500. He noted that they do fund raisers such as coin tosses, they don't charge their patients as others do and they are a 501C organization. Mrs. Scull praised their services. Mr. Prickett wondered what impact they would have on paid EMS service as to whether it keeps their costs down. Discussion ensued regarding competition in that Mt. Holly could not get to patients before Browns Mills and Lourdes so they lost money in essence and that putting a unit in town gives more coverage for the residents.

Beatrice Black - She advised of bills she received from Lourdes for over \$5,000 for responding for a call, noting she did not know to say they didn't want them to provide the service. She expressed that Browns Mills Emergency Squad should cover Browns Mills. Mr. Vaz relayed that the patient can request where to be taken and noted that the \$5,000 had to include paramedics and the hospital. Mrs. Scull noted that they were assured if one doesn't pay that they wouldn't be charged. Mrs. Stinney asked if Mr. Vaz could go over her bill with her to which he agreed.

Darius Mosley, Pemberton EMS – Advised that he also was asking for an increase. In regards to this year's appropriations they are only looking at \$5,000 and they are trying to get more to at least cover their operating costs. He expressed understanding why that number was given due to their decline in response. He noted they will need at least \$15-20,000 to even cover their operating costs. He shared that their training costs are covered by Virtua. Mrs. Scull noted that they know that they haven't made the calls and asked how many responders they have. He advised that they have seven active emts. Mr. Allen asked if they did fund raisers. He noted that it's harder for them to yield \$2,000 for a coin toss and were only able to do two out of four scheduled last year that only brought in about \$12-1300 and they do mailings every year that brings in between \$3-5,000. President Cartier asked what their primary service area is. Mr. Mosley indicated that they cover from Buttonwood, out to south end of the Township line as well as the Borough and down past the high school and up Four Mile Road on to Ongs Hat. He shared they had approximately between five and eight hundred calls for service, but does not have the exact number of what they responded to, but noted they were between 14-25% of their calls. President Cartier asked what their plan was to rectify their response time and decline in membership. Mr. Mosley informed that they restructured their program and for the month of January they did 50% of their calls and for February they are at least at 75%. They are reaching

out to the community including the High School trying to bring the members in and so far it is working out really well. He explained it was basically a leadership issue, some things were not getting done, they had lost a lot of money through their Treasurer who was embezzling money and they are looking at bankruptcy right now. They are hoping they can get through that and they have a lot of people who have stepped up and if they get the funding they hope they will make it through to next year. President Cartier asked that he heard about the contract that Browns Mills had to sign that required they had to answer 60% of their calls to receive full funding. Mr. Mosley informed that he has not had a chance to see their contract yet but did meet with Mr. Vaz yesterday and hopes to meet with him and the Mayor this week to discuss their contract. They are hoping to meet their percentage as well and get enough funding to at least cover their operating costs. Mrs. Stinney noted him having said that his company covers the Borough as well and she questioned if they have gone to the Borough Council to give them the same request for funding and if so what their response was. Mr. Mosley acknowledged he has not been to their meeting yet, however he shared that the Borough has not given them any money over the past two years. They were getting \$7500 per year, but he will be at their next meeting to see if they will see any of that. One of his members had heard they are not really concerned about the EMS as they have the Fire Department as well and they need two fire trucks. He noted that they had always relied on Pemberton Township to take care of them and has always done well by them. Mr. Allen asked him to go over the response calls again. Mr. Vaz informed that when they became aware that the Borough had been paying in the past and that they had not paid in a number of years they looked into it a little more and he and the Mayor have a meeting with the Borough Mayor and Clerk Administrator the first week in March and they have added that to their agenda because Pemberton Township supports the organization not just in a cash way, but with insurance, etc. It seems that Pemberton Township has been providing EMS service to the Borough at no cost for a few years regardless if it is Lourdes or whomever. Mrs. Scull commented that it was a good idea partnering with the school to increase membership. President Cartier expressed that he would personally hate to see the organization go away, however, his one concern is the financial controls of the organization and he would have to insist that they would obviously have to enter into a contract with the Township and implement the financial controls over the organization so that nothing like last year happens again. He asked what they were asking for to which Mr. Mosley informed they were asking for \$20,000 instead of the \$5,000. President Cartier noted that Council will consider that.

There being no additional members of the public indicating a desire to be heard, Council President Cartier closed the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Prickett asked in regards to the Borough not contributing to the Pemberton EMS, since Lourdes is a service based at Deborah and the municipality does not pay them to do that, but they elect to support volunteer squads for a number of reasons. The Mayor reflected that they contract with Lourdes whose contract does not provide for them to go into the Borough while they are working for the Township. Also they recognize Pemberton Borough is also receiving services from Pemberton Emergency squad and not paying for it noting Pemberton Township picks up all the costs. He affirmed they will be meeting with the Borough and will be discussing terms so there is financial benefit to the Township that can be passed on through the emergency squad. Mrs. Stinney stated for the record that she and Mr. Moorhead go back a long time she is grateful for all the services they do in the Township. She asked Council President in regards to a "no vote" she cast for page 23 for the reduction in legal services and she stated she would like to rescind her "no vote", noting there is about \$6,000 in that line that's now available. Council President noted it is Council's prerogative to change their vote. Although it was noted that the motion had passed she reiterated that she would like her vote changed to a "yes" vote. Mrs. Scull asked what the other department was that they reduced. Council noted it was another line in legal.

Mayor Patriarca shared that they still have a mechanism to keep Pemberton EMS solvent, noting that they did not receive funding for 2011 so they have \$25,000 reserved that's available. He suggested rather than trying to increase the \$5,000 that the \$5,000 along with a portion or all of last year's funding that can be appropriated that is in a reserve which could meet their needs and they are still working with them. They have to come to some type of agreement that there has to be a service for what they are paying for. President Cartier expressed understanding what the Mayor has said that there is funding left from last year that they haven't received yet. However, he questioned what happens next year and if they are going to looking at the same situation next year. The Mayor relayed that would depend on the terms of the contract and meeting those

terms. He stated that would depend on their organization's actions and the service they are able to provide to the Township. President Cartier asked why they haven't received the \$25,000 for 2011. The Mayor reiterated that they have been trying to get the contract worked out and get them to meet the terms of the contract and there may have to be some adjustments. President Cartier asked if he is referring to the existing contract to which the Mayor advised that there is no existing contract. President Cartier asked why their funding would be held up if there is no existing contract. Mr. Vaz relayed that it's because they have been trying to get to that point in 2011. President Cartier expressed that it sounds like they are holding their \$25,000 ransom to get them to sign the contract. The Mayor clarified that they budgeted \$25,000 but never had an agreement which is where a contract comes in to play. President asked if they ever have had an agreement to which Mr. Vaz noted this was the first time. The Mayor noted that neither did Browns Mills to which President Cartier pointed however, that they all have received the funding in the past. Mr. Vaz explained the concept was that this year it would be based upon achieving the terms. Council President acknowledged understanding what they are saying but if it has been past practice. The Mayor expressed that if he refers to past practice he reminded that Presidential Lakes failed to provide a service and lost their funding and ultimately they had to meet the terms, to which President Cartier interjected that it was through negotiations with Presidential Lakes. The Mayor explained it was because they failed to provide a service so the funding was not given. He reflected that Country Lakes failed to provide a service and also lost their funding and they eventually had to file bankruptcy. He also shared that Magnolia lost their funding for failing to provide a service as well. The Mayor expressed that they can only fund when they are provided a service. He further noted that they budgeted that money in 2011 in anticipation of receiving a service and if it is not provided they don't just arbitrarily give the money just because it was budgeted. Council President expressed that the 2011 funding should still be in the budget. The Mayor said that's another way of doing it but in essence they would then be saying not to use that 2011 reserve and put it in the surplus. Mr. Vaz explained that if they don't get anything for 2011 that money would roll back into the budget anyway; if they get half of it then the balance rolls. Mrs. Scull expressed that they would then have a budget shortfall for next year if they are making their calls and they are giving them \$25,000 putting them short for next year. President Cartier acknowledged not remembering every provision of the contract but recalls a 60% threshold and believes they are still entitled to a percentage of the money even if they did not reach the 60% threshold. Mr. Vaz shared that he and Mr. Mosley have been communicating most of the year and learned yesterday that they believe that they are between 14 and 25% so that's going factor in when they meet next week as to the dollar amount. In closing President Cartier noted to Council that Council has received two requests from their EMS starting with Browns Mills that has asked for an additional \$6500 to be added to their appropriations which would be Emergency Management on page 46. He noted the Mayor requested \$26,000 and he reminded they said they could raise \$15,000 through donations which leaves them with \$41,000. He believes their internal budget was \$47,500. Mr. Moorehead confirmed they believe this year will need \$47,000, to which President Cartier reflected that that would mean they need an additional \$6,000.

Motion by Stinney and Allen to add \$6,000 to page 46, line 2-01-25-260-001-510, Aid to Emergency Squads, bringing it from \$26,000 to \$32,000. Stinney, yes; Allen, yes; Scull, yes; Prickett, yes; Cartier yes. Motion carried.

President noted to Council that they also received a request from Pemberton Township Emergency Squad to increase their appropriation from \$5,000 to \$25,000 which would be page 46, line 2-01-25-260-001-512, Aid to Emergency Squads, Pemberton EMS. He noted that his only concern with that is that they get together and work at the contract agreement with Administration as Browns Mills Emergency Squad has and that they start responding to their calls for service and get the financial controls in order and they get the contract locked down. Mr. Allen questioned how the meeting with the Borough this week will come into effect, noting that it was mentioned that the Borough has not funded them for the past two years. He questioned if during the meeting the Borough decides they will contribute. Mr. Vaz was not sure, noting that it is a little different than with the fire service because the fire service has specific provisions in the statutes. He explained that the volunteer EMS falls under a different statute and he is not sure if it's done precisely as a shared service agreement but somehow they have to get a mutual understanding that they have to start contributing. The Mayor added that the contract they negotiated with Browns Mills prevents the parties from contracting outside of the Township so the contract they would enter into would be between the Township and the Pemberton Borough and not the Pemberton EMS with Pemberton Borough. President Cartier

asked hypothetically would the state statutes become effective if the EMS services became part of the Fire Department. Mr. Vaz clarified it would be if it was the Fire Department providing the service. The Mayor shared that the reason they put the “no contracting outside of the Township” provision in the contract is because the Township is providing the insurance and all the equipment, workers comp and they would be contracting now with another town and what if they hypothetically contracted with ten other towns while the Township is paying for everything, so they felt they would support their organizations and keep them operational but they would work in our Township. Mrs. Scull acknowledged understanding that but thinks about the issues when they have a massive fire and problem and they see emergency squads come to Pemberton from all over. The Mayor clarified that this does not affect mutual aid, when that occurs that is something different.

Motion by Scull and Allen to \$15,000 to page 46, line 2-01-25-260-001-512, Aid to Emergency Squads, Pemberton EMS, bringing it from \$5,000 to \$20,000 since that’s the amount they said they could survive on. Scull, yes; Allen, yes; Prickett, yes; Stinney, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Scull expressed hope that the Mayor and Mr. Vaz works with Mr. Mosley and his company and will at least give them the funding from last year for the calls they made. Council President asked the Clerk to make sure Administration gets Mrs. Scull’s comments. The Mayor stated that they are trying to determine where the extra money is going to come from that Council is adding to the budget. President Cartier expressed that it will then increase the appropriations. The Mayor reflected that that means Council’s budget will be going to roughly 2.8 cents now. Mrs. Scull expressed if they were going at 2.7, then going to 2.8 cents and have the community protected is well worth it.

Mrs. Scull then brought up Senior Services. She expressed concern about the cost of gas and other items going up and the Senior Council has not had an increase in several years and with the proposed cost gas and what it means to the community to have the Senior Citizen Council running and operating she would like to put a couple thousand in that line to protect them. President Cartier asked which line item she was referring to. Mrs. Scull clarified she is speaking line 661, page 83. She also asked the Mayor in regards to line 792 and whether they are looking at possibly losing the free lunches. The Mayor explained that they lost a portion of the program, the free program that was coming from Obama’s program, but there is still another program but that program requires a donation and this line would reflect the donation coming in, part of this is the other meals they provide such as the breakfasts and snacks, etc. He noted that this reflects an increase of by a \$1,000 a month donation towards the meals that are supplied. Mrs. Scull noted that she would make a motion to increase that by \$2,000 since they have not received an increase in a few years. The Mayor informed that they receive a report from the Senior Council that reflects that they maintain a balance of roughly \$15,000 in their account. Mrs. Scull expressed that is a little different because that money is absorbed. The Mayor explained that it is cash in, cash out and this \$15,000 in the budget replaces that \$15,000 that they have in their account; they use that \$15,000 throughout the year and this budgeted \$15,000 replaces that. The Mayor expressed that they sit on a \$15,000 reserve and at the end of the year after they have gone on all their trips they still have \$15,000 in the bank. Mrs. Scull expressed that a lot of that money was already encumbered.

Motion by Scull to add \$2,000 to line 661 making it \$17,000. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to introduce the budget as discussed today.

Mr. Prickett noted that awhile ago there were questions from the public about having the budget posted on-line as a PDF and Mr. Vaz said that he would put it on line today. He recalled that a question came up he believes from Mrs. Scull as to whether or not this has to be introduced first. He expressed understanding that the budget comes out when the budget hearings are taking place which is when the public can see it. He noted that at this point if they can put it on-line and they didn’t introduce this budget, but rather at a subsequent meeting the public would have time to review it. President Cartier noted that that was going to be his suggestion that they list this on the agenda for March 7th for introduction. Mr. Prickett then noted that the first hearing was cancelled because Council did not get the budget due to funding information coming in late. He

expressed that there were a number of residents in town that perhaps scheduled to come to the first hearing but it was cancelled. He expressed that this is the tax payers' dollars that they are working on in the form of tax money. He further expressed that although legally today's one hearing is all that's legally required but he feels they have to do a service to the community and provide all the opportunity they can for the public to come out and make it convenient for them. He reiterated they had one budget hearing scheduled a number of weeks ago that was cancelled and some people may have gone out of their way to rearrange their schedule to come to that meeting and could not since it was cancelled and perhaps they were not able to come today since they rearranged their schedule to do something today. He reflected that another opportunity the public missed is by not being able to review the budget on-line. He acknowledged that that is relatively a new avenue of information for the public but since it has been done over the last couple of years he feels the public expects to see that on-line so they can review it.

Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes; Prickett, no; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

President Cartier noted for the record that Council's introduction of the municipal budget would be Resolution No. 63-2012.

Mrs. Scull expressed that this still gives the public an opportunity to come to the public hearing. She clarified that she does want the public involved but noted that they see how many people were here and they don't see that big of a difference any year regarding to the budget. She expressed the public has to take some responsibility as well as to knowing when the time is and contacting. She expressed doubt that if the budget had been on-line that there would have been more people here today. She commented on how many people were really going to understand various things in the budget, unless it's someone that pays attention all the time and has a true interest in budgeting.

Mr. Prickett recalled a question posed earlier on the budget and questioned regarding the codes on the pages next to the line such as the letter H, C, S, and L. Mr. Benick explained that those letters are headers and subs. Mr. Prickett then acknowledged that it's really just organizing of information.

Mrs. Stinney shared that everywhere she goes she talks about the budget and she tries to spread the word because the residents do need to know. She agreed with Mr. Prickett that whenever there is opportunity to come forward, she encourages people to come out to the budget hearings and ask the questions and review what ever they possibly can. She suggested that perhaps the Mayor and Mr. Vaz will continue their open door policy and encourage the public to participate and not wait until they get into a struggle. She shared that they all know that the struggle has come for Pemberton Township. She noted having attended the school board budget and heard that there is over a 2 million dollar short fall that will impact Pemberton Township. She shared that she hears people are thankful that Council reviews matters and they appreciate the things that Council does. She stated for the record to let everyone know that Council does try to get the message out and not all people go on-line, and not everyone gets the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Prickett shared his final comment that he is glad that they are asking the questions the questions that he had prepared for today, and that not only the public could hear the answers to the questions for Administration and others but also they will be reflected in the minutes for however many people in the Township read the minutes which are posted on-line. He noted that might be another avenue that people can learn about the budget process and how the money is being spent in the town. He then thanked everyone for being here today and all the people that will be looking at the minutes on-line in the future for taking the time to read them.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Finlay, MMC
Township Clerk