

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 7:04 p.m.

**Open Public Meetings Act Statement** – This Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was sent to the "South Jersey Times" newspaper. In addition, a copy of this notice was posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Notice on the bulletin board has remained continuously posted.

**Roll Call**

Councilman Austin: Present  
Councilwoman Higbee: Present  
Councilman Pierpont: Present  
Mayor Johnson: Present  
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Present  
Councilwoman Kelley: Present  
Council President Razze: Present  
CFO Steve Considine: Present

**Work Discussion**

Motion to Open Discussion: Kelley  
Time: 7:05 p.m.

Second: Austin

- **2014 Municipal Budget – Pitman Police Department**

Chief Zimmerman presented the proposed 2014 budget for the Pitman Police Department to Mayor and Council for review. Chief Zimmerman stated that at this time there are fifteen full time officers and two Class II officers working within the department.

**Personnel and Salaries:** Chief Zimmerman stated that there are two officers who intend to retire this year, and that he has added their sick time and vacation time buy back amount, approximately \$35,000.00, to the budget for these two officers, and has added approximately \$1,800.00 for sick time sell back and \$41,000.00 for maximum sell back vacation time for the remaining officers in the department.

Chief Zimmerman will seek Council authorization in the near future to begin the hiring process for two new officers to replace the retiring officers. He will also seek to amend the present ordinance which outlines the staffing requirements of the department to the following:

- Decrease four Sergeants to three Sergeants
- Increase two Corporal positions to three
- Decrease the Lieutenant position to one, or abolish the position altogether

Discussion followed between members of Council and Chief Zimmerman, and it was suggested by Chief Zimmerman that the line item for regular salaries could be reduced by \$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00, and that the line item for the sell back of sick and vacation time could be reduced by \$14,000.00.

Capital and Operating Purchases: Chief Zimmerman requested \$20,000.00 from capital funds to purchase a solar powered informational/speed limit sign (MPH Matrix Trailer) for the Police Department, and added \$20,000.00 to his budget for new radios. Discussion followed relating to whether the radios should be purchased from the department budget or by using capital funds.

**Motion** was made by Councilman Blass to remove \$20,000.00 from the Police Department budget for the purchase of radios (Line 705) and to purchase same using capital funds.

Second: Austin

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: No

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: No

Councilwoman Kelley: No

Councilman Pierpont: No

Council President Razze: No

Mayor Johnson: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion to Close Discussion: Razze  
Time: 8:23 p.m.

Second: Kelley

Public Portion

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze  
Time: 8:23 p.m.

Second: Kelley

**Jim Canna, 307 Grandview Avenue** – Mr. Canna asked Chief Zimmerman what items are covered in line item 201, and why there is such a large increase in the appropriation amount over last year's amount.

Chief Zimmerman replied that it is an operating expense appropriation, and that the increase reflects the cost of training an officer in the use of tasers. It is approximately \$1,000.00 per officer for this training.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razze  
Time: 8:25 p.m.

Second: Blass

Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Kelley asked what effect the tax appeal of the former Sony property decision will have on the Borough. CFO Considine stated that the appeal decision resulted in the assessment of the property being reduced over a three year period. This will lessen the immediate impact on the Borough in regard to the loss of tax revenue from this property. He explained that as with all loss of revenue to the Borough, the burden is placed on the taxpayers to make up the difference.

Councilwoman Kelley asked to have discussion of whether the Borough should appeal the Sony assessment negotiated by the Gloucester County Tax Assessors Office. This discussion will be placed

on the January 27, 2014 Work Session Agenda.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Blass

Second: Higbee

All vote in favor to adjourn.

Time: 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator