

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – April 24, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Cafferty calls the meeting to order at 7:03PM and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Roll Call	Present/ Absent
Dr. Michael Brantley	Present
Robert Lane, Jr.	Present
Nicholas Williams	Absent
Tassie D. York	Present
Keith Cafferty	Present

Also present: Gina M. LaPlaca, Business Administrator; Gene Anthony, Township Attorney; Gabriella Siboni, Municipal Clerk.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda, ordinances, and resolutions are posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org) and the meeting is being streamed live via townhallstreams.com.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Committeeman Lane, seconded by, Deputy Mayor York, to approve the minutes of meetings of April 10, 2023. All Present are in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Declaring April 26 as Denim Day

WHEREAS, April 26, 2023, marks the 25th celebration of Denim Day in the United States. Denim Day is the annual sexual assault awareness event that works to start conversations about the destructive attitudes surrounding sexual assault, and;

WHEREAS, The Denim Day campaign began in 1999 as an international protest of an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans. The head judge argued that “because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them... and by removing the jeans... it was no longer rape but consensual sex”, and;

WHEREAS, The judgement sparked a worldwide outcry from those who understood coercion, threats, and violence that accompany the act of sexual assaults, and;

WHEREAS, Each year, we wear denim to honor this survivor and all survivors who have experienced victim blaming, and;

WHEREAS, Participating in Denim Day provides a wonderful opportunity for the community to show solidarity with survivors of abuse and to encourage open discussion about how we can work in our personal and professional lives to reduce violence in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Cafferty, Mayor of the Township of Neptune, along with the entire Township Committee, do hereby declare April 26, 2023, as Denim Day and I encourage all to sport their denim as a symbol of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault and as a show of support to all survivors of sexual assault.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Dr. Brantley Dr. Brantley commended Chief Fisher for the article in the Coaster. Dr. Brantley stated that President Biden stated how pervasive scams can be. Chief Fisher had an article in the Township Newsletter to address scams. Dr. Brantley stated it is important to spread awareness of these issues and a commendation to the Police Department for highlighting this topic.
- Committeeman Lane Committeeman Lane stated he became a grandparent this week and is thrilled. Committeeman Lane stated the Hometown Hero dance was this past Saturday and Bud Magathan and Wilbur Martin were presented as Hometown Heroes. Committeeman Lane stated the preconstruction meeting for Fletcher Lake project went well and they are preparing to move forward. Committeeman Lane reminded residents that Zone C and D are having changes in their garbage and recycling pick up. The change is effective May 4, 2023. Committeeman Lane stated that May is Older Americans Month, and the Senior Center will have programs to celebrate this all month long.
- Deputy Mayor York Deputy Mayor York thanked Committeeman Lane for his work on the Hometown Hero banner project. Deputy Mayor York stated Neptune United will have a food drive on May 5th with drop-off locations at the Neptune Senior Center and Kearny Bank.
- Mayor Cafferty Deputy Mayor York stated there are many upcoming events in Ocean Grove. Mayor Cafferty stated for gardeners to be aware of the last possible cold snap. Mayor Cafferty is looking forward to the grand opening of the Disk Golf Course.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Business Administrator will report on capital projects and matters of general interest.

- **Bradley Park Sewer Replacement Project:** The Township has started design work to replace the existing sanitary sewer pipes along 9th Avenue from approximately Lafayette Avenue to Memorial Drive (County Route 40A). This consists of removal and replacement of terra cotta sewer lines, some of which were installed over 100 years ago. After the sewer work is done, the roadway will be replaced with new asphalt. On the current proposed schedule, we hope that the project can be bid in May and that work can start in June.
- **Update on Homeless Encampment:** The State, County, Township, and the various nonprofit agencies that we have been working with are currently in the process of finalizing access agreements with the property owner. All future steps taken by the relevant agencies must flow from receiving that access. In the meantime, Monmouth County Clean Communities and the NJDEP Clean Shores program have made two visits to the property so far – in total they have collected 70 bags of trash, 13 tires, 2 shopping carts, and assorted auto parts. The County believes their cleanup effort should be completed in one or two more visits.
- **Take Your Child to Work Day – April 27th:** The Township will be taking part in “Take Your Child to Work Day” this Thursday April 27th; children between the ages of 6-12 whose parents or guardians are Township employees will be able to tour our facilities, enjoy some games, “touch a truck,” pizza and much more. My special thanks to HR Director Stephanie Oppegaard and all of our Department Heads for putting together a great program and making themselves available to make sure our kids enjoy themselves and hopefully learn something too!
- **DPW Trash Collection Schedule Changes:** Effective May 4th, there will be a change in the garbage and recycling pick up for Zones C and D. Zone C (Bradley Park and Seaview Island) will now be collected on Fridays, and Zone D (West Neptune) will now be collected on Thursdays. Notices have been mailed to all affected residents and the schedule change will also be posted on the Township

NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET TEAM

- Michael J. Bascom – Chief Financial Officer
- Debbie Latshaw - Assistant Chief Financial Officer
- Melissa Zucconi - Purchasing Agent
- Gina LaPlaca - Township Administrator
- Stephanie Oppegaard - Director of Human Resources
- Courtney Langer – Payroll Accountant
- Lisa Mansfield – Administrative Assistant to the CFO
- Sharon Rowe – Departmental Secretary

- Mayor Keith Cafferty
- Deputy Mayor Tassie York
- Committeeman Dr. Michael Brantley
- Committeeman Robert Lane, Jr.
- Committeeman Nicholas Williams

- Neptune Township Municipal Department Heads



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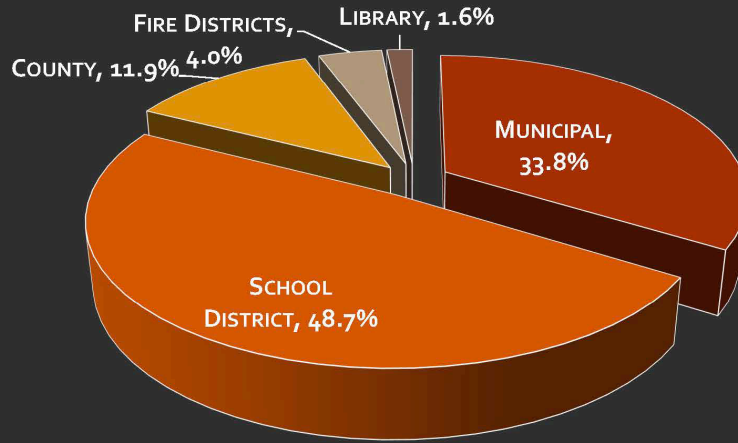


BUDGET / MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ Fiscal Responsibility (significant inflation impacts in 2022-2023)
- ❖ Maintain and Improve Quality of Life in every neighborhood
- ❖ Provision of services (No reduction in services to the community)
- ❖ Public Safety, Health & Welfare as priorities
- ❖ Maintaining a stable tax base and tax rate
- ❖ Providing services to 6000+ senior citizen residents
- ❖ Remain prepared for disaster response and recovery
- ❖ Debt for growth of community and distribution of costs to those who receive the benefit (not to borrow for items we can't afford)
- ❖ Sustainable budgeting
- ❖ Maintenance of strong financial ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor's
- ❖ Continuing recovery from Global Pandemic



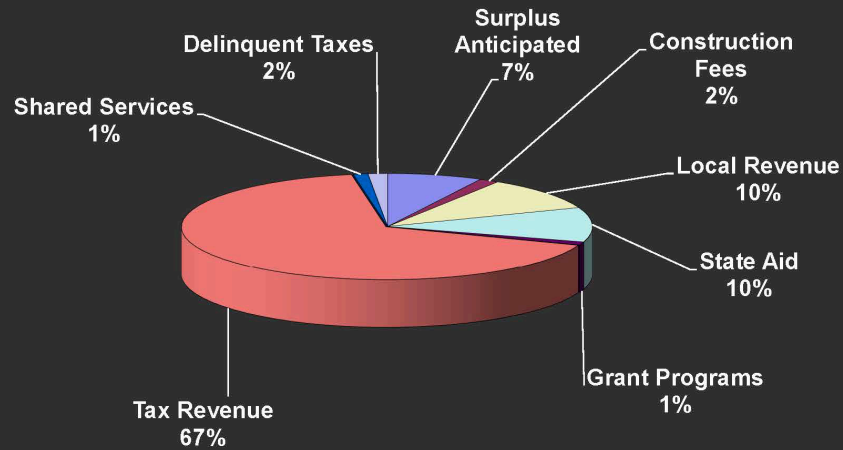
2022 TAX APPORTIONMENT



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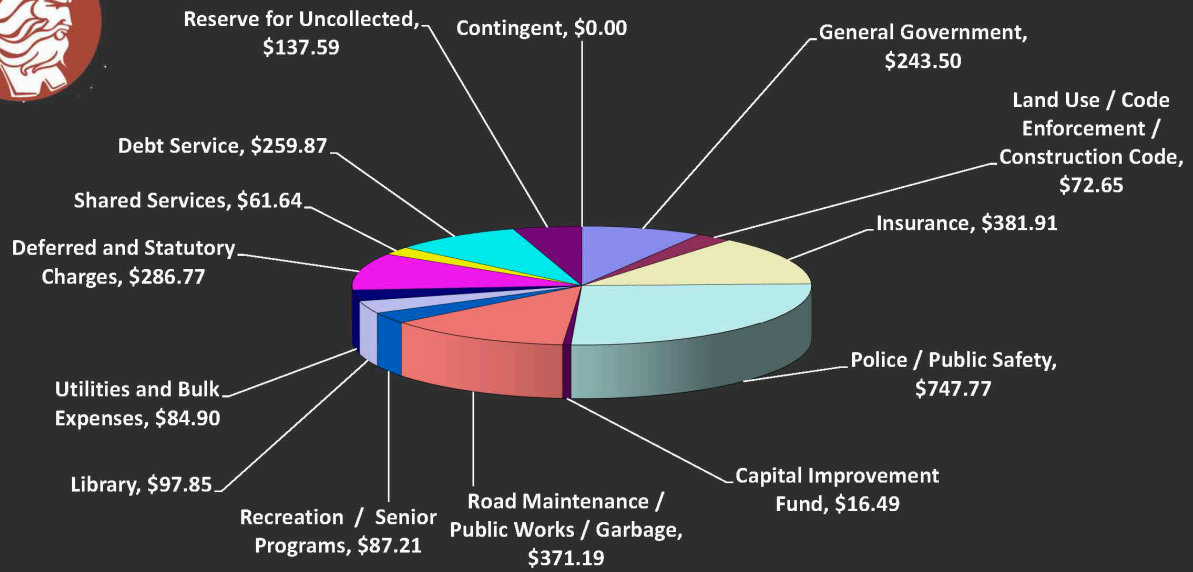
SOURCES OF REVENUE TO SUPPORT BUDGET



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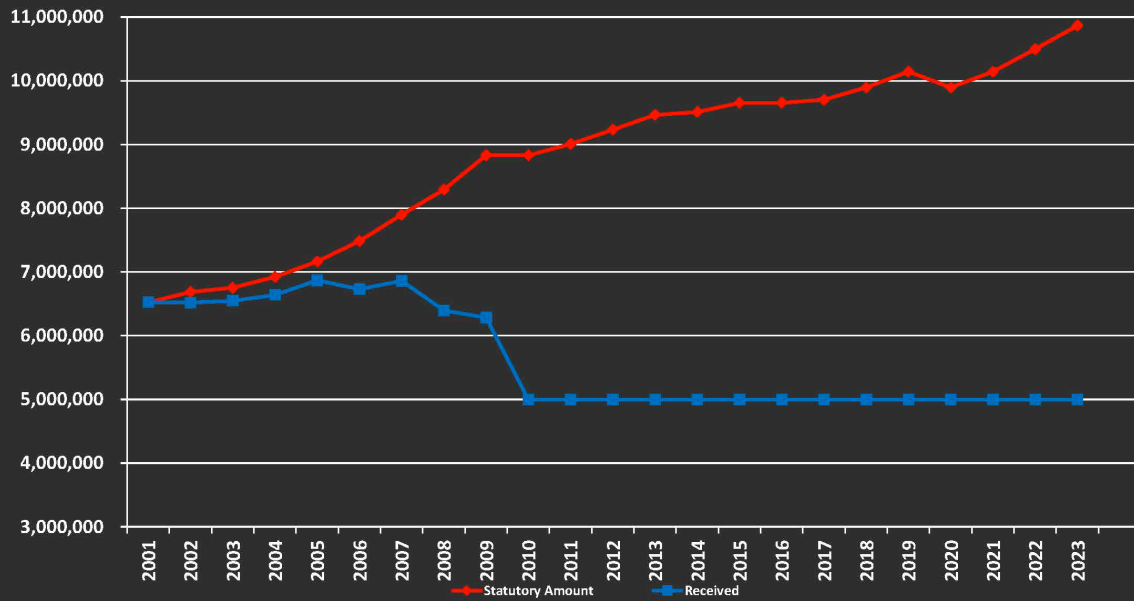
How The Average Residential Tax is Spent



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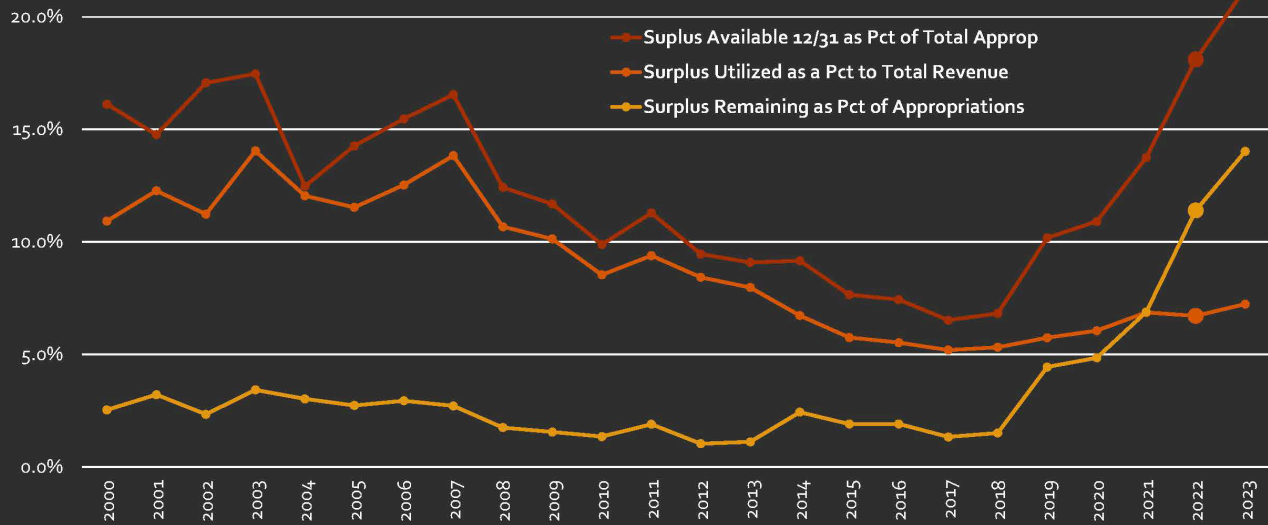


UNDERPAYMENT OF STATE AID TO NEPTUNE BY YEAR (TOTALS MORE THE \$73,520,486.00 SINCE 2001 / \$5,867,431.00 FOR 2023 ALONE)

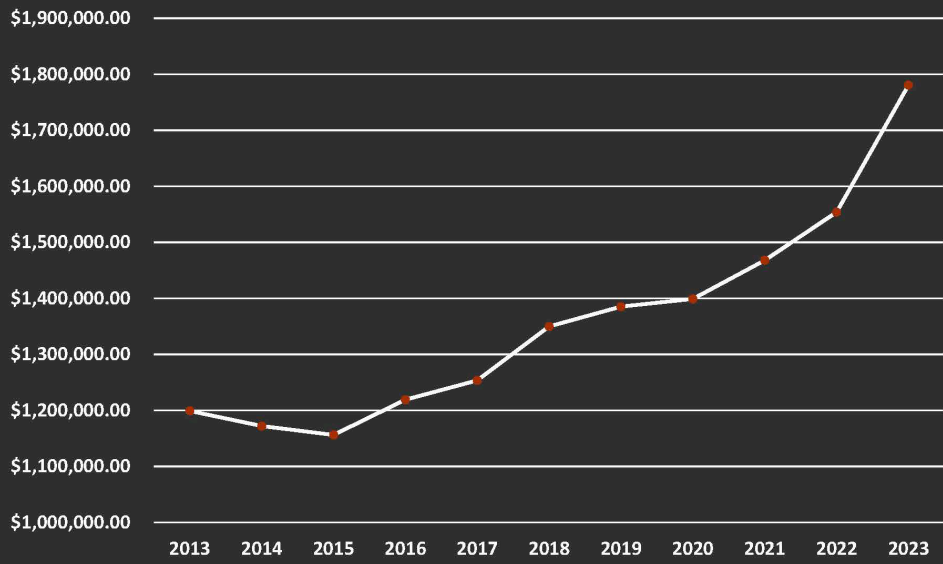




SURPLUS USAGE / BALANCE HISTORY

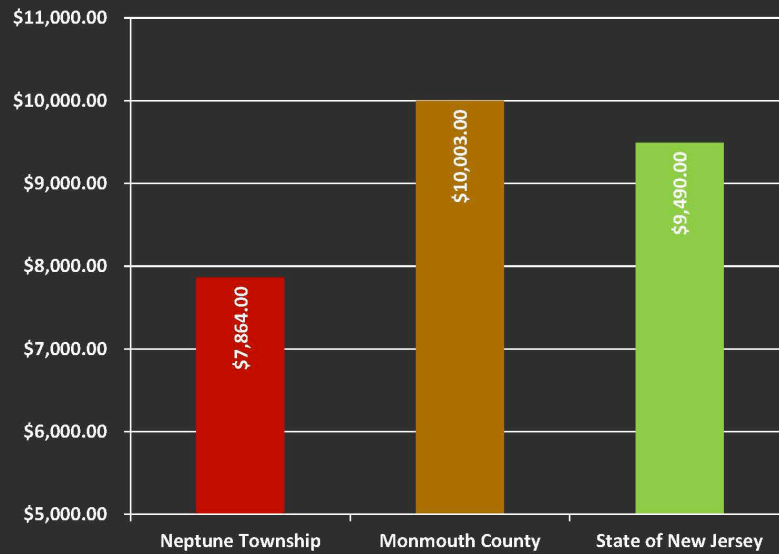


Library Portion of Property Tax





NEPTUNE TAXES VS. COUNTY & STATE AVERAGES (BASED UPON 2022 ACTUAL)

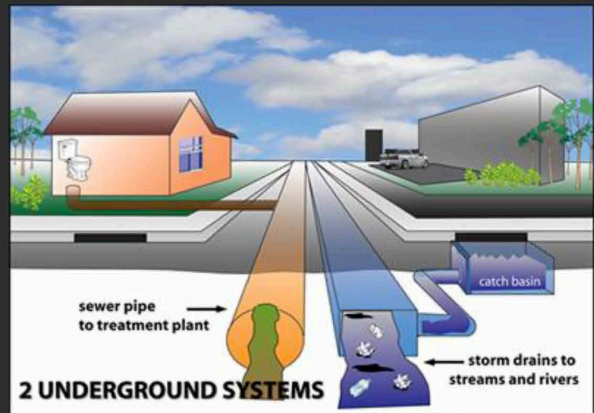


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SEWER UTILITY (SANITARY)

- Sewer utility is self-liquidating.
- Sewer is regenerating surplus.
- Major Sewer infrastructure projects will continue in efforts to reduce Infiltration & Inflow and prevent pollution of our waterways.
- Sewer treatment costs remain stable due to reduced flow, benefiting Neptune and the Sewer Authority
- Maintaining strong surplus position to prepare for long term infrastructure improvements.



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MARINA UTILITY

- Marina utility is self-liquidating.
- Marina is regenerating surplus.
- 2023 investments in dock enhancements and basin dredging.
- Marina rates remain stable due to increased revenue from dockage, winter storage, and kayak storage.
- Additional revenue is expected from increased storage capacity and sold out dock space.



BUDGET PRIORITIES

Manage Spending Challenges

- Statutory/Required Expenditures including pensions and health benefits are increased by \$850,000.00 as compared to 2022.
- Salary/Wages up 6.9% (~\$1.2M): contractual & non-union increases, addition of new employees, retainage increases, step increases.
- Operating expenditures in general are impacted by the economy as reflected in virtually every operating element of the budget.

Conserve Surplus

- Surplus level had been replenished by \$5.3M to \$11M at YE22
- 2023 budget utilizes \$3.75M to manage revenue losses and lower the tax rate. This is a moderate increase over 2022, and is in line with fiscal planning goals.
- \$7.27M surplus balance left to absorb continued marketplace disruptions and goal to replenish to \$9M+ to maintain fiscal stability and tax rate stability.

Manage Spending Challenges

- Total appropriations up 4.3% due to large increases in non-discretionary costs and addition of American Rescue Plan (ARP) matching funding
- Continued revenue losses compared to 2019 levels, but addition of ARP funds, addition of Hotel Tax, Cannabis Tax, and Hospital Contribution support the 2023 budget and future stability.
- Delivered 8.13% decrease in tax rate.



2022 ANALYSIS

- Re-generated surplus utilized in budget and increased the overall municipal surplus balance by \$2M in spite of deficits in anticipated Court and EMS revenues.
- Initiated Cannabis taxation which is expected to generate sufficient revenue to offset revenue losses related to the economy and to support aggressive paydown of capital improvement related debt.
- Continued significant investment in improvement to roadways, drainage, and sanitary sewer infrastructure, parks, playgrounds, public facilities, and public safety equipment.
- Continued to financially weather difficult economic times, and the transition from the pandemic to an endemic, through strong financial practices and the support of the community. Record tax collection rates, new revenues, careful spending, and enhanced methods of service delivery and revenue collection are the primary drivers of continued fiscal health.

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2023 Budget Process & Timeline



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2023 BUDGET GOALS

- Responsible fiscal management – manage spending, strategically utilize surplus to continue essential services, manage lingering COVID impacts and the final tax rate
- Continue to aggressively look for new recurring revenue streams
- Prioritize opportunities to increase & diversify tax base through redevelopment and adding ratables
- Prioritize economic recovery, infrastructure, and public amenities such as roads, parks, recreation, and the arts, and identify creative sources of funding
- Prioritize retaining staff and recruiting qualified staffing and professionals.



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2023 BUDGET CHALLENGES

- Increased cost of statutory expenses including health benefits and pensions.
- Increasing costs of residential services (Public Safety, Leaf Collection, Trash / Recycling)
- Cost of statutory compliance programs (storm water management, hazard remediation, program fees and associated requirements)
- Increasing costs in utilities
- Lack of availability of replacement vehicles and equipment, and increased cost related to same.

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Well Managed Debt Service Provides Capital Flexibility

Continuing with Ambitious 2023 Capital Plan



Planned Capital Projects—enabled by sound planning:

- Continued significant road paving scheduled in partnership with utility companies, to share costs.
- Drainage improvements
- Recreation/Park improvements
- Public Safety improvements & equipment
- Technology enhancements
- Improvements to lakes
- Environmentally friendly flood reduction projects

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2023 BUDGET OPPORTUNITIES

- New revenues and controlled spending should result in maintaining a level of surplus that assures that the Township remains prepared for emergencies and economic downturns without the typically associated tax spikes.
- Ability to use the American Rescue Plan Act funding in 2022 & 2023 to temporarily fill revenue gaps and to enhance public accessibility to conduct business with the township.
- Expected growth through new construction and redevelopment should increase overall taxable valuation, allowing for continued tax rate stability and reductions.



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SUMMARY

- 2023 will remain fiscally challenging, but we are in a good position to continue our local recovery, continue with projects and initiatives, and build upon our fiscal strength.
- The last few years have revealed our significant risk of our over-reliance on residential property taxes, limited discretionary funding sources, and certain local revenues. Expansion of our revenue sources and focusing on commercial development and redevelopment should remain a focus of the governing body and the administration.

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PUBLIC COMMENT / QUESTIONS



Name and Address

Shane Martin, 138 Mt.
Hermon Way.

Nancy Clarke, Embury
Ave.

Richard Williams, 1
Abbott Ave.

Comment

Mr. Martin asked what the total budget is. Mr. Bascom stated \$800,000.00.

Mr. Martin asked what the JIF premium increases were this year. Mr. Martin asked the amount allocated for legal fees. Mr. Bascom stated there was.

Ms. Clarke asked where the budget presentation will or is posted. Ms. Siboni stated the budget is posted on the Clerk's website and the budget presentation will be posted tomorrow. Ms. Clarke asked how the cannabis revenue is included now that there are additional venues for cannabis. Mr. Bascom stated the tax for cannabis is a miscellaneous revenue not anticipated.

Mr. Williams inquired about the gap from the State Aid; is there hope the state would be filling in the funding. Mr. Bascom stated he has not seen a significant increase to include the finding.

Neptune By Adding A Resident Only Handicapped Parking Zone On Beach Ave. And Removing A Resident Only Handicapped Parking Zone On Lawrence Ave. And Mt. Hermon Way

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance authorizes a resident only handicapped parking zone in front of 16 Lake Ave. and removes resident only handicapped parking zones at 145 Main Avenue Apt. 7 and 136 Mount Hermon Way

Offered by: York Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Brantley Yes Lane Yes Williams Absent York Yes Cafferty Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

- Res #23- 170** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing The Cancellation Of A Credit Balance
- Res #23- 171** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing A Block Party On Abbott Ave.
- Res #23- 172** Place Lien On Various Properties
- Res #23- 173** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Co-Sponsoring The Third Annual Art For Sea Event
- Res #23- 174** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Waiving Requirements Of Township Code § 3-1 For The New Jersey Sharing Network 5k
- Res#23- 175** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Accepting Resignations
- Res#23- 176** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Public Works
- Res#23- 177** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Reclassification
- Res#23- 178** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Granting Leave Of Absence To Douglas Johnson
- Res#23- 179** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Supporting The Submission Of Application For Monmouth County Summer Youth Employment Grant
- Res#23- 180** Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Recreation
- Res#23- 181** Adopt The Emergency Operations Plan Of The Township Of Neptune And Promulgate Same As The Authoritative Document For Emergency Operations Within The Township Of Neptune
- Res#23- 182** Resolution Authorizing The Professional Services Agreement With CME Associates For Engineering Services Relating To Additional Improvements To Neptune Boulevard In An Amount Not To Exceed \$33,300.00
- Res#23- 183** Authorizing The Execution Of Agreement With New Jersey Sharing Network Relating To 5k Celebration Of Life On May 20, 2023
- Res#23- 184** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing An Agreement With Wall Township To Enter Into A Shared Service Agreement To Share Tasks Associated With Their Municipal Departments Of Public Works
- Res#23- 185** Resolution Authorizing The Professional Services Agreement Hazard3 LLC For Hazardous Materials Training And Capstone Exercise In An Amount Not To Exceed \$21,900.00
- Res#23- 186** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Amend Professional Services Agreement To Tax Office Renovations Awarded To Michael V. Testa Architect
- Res#23- 187** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Awarding Clean

Air Company Contract “First Aid Building- Source Capture Exhaust Removal System” In An Amount Not To Exceed \$77,763.00

Res#23- 188 Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Awarding Earle Asphalt Company Contract “2022 Roadway Improvement Program” In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,232,913.13

Res#23- 189 Authorizing The Agreement For “Architectural, MEP And Structural Design Services For Tax Office Renovations” To Mancini Duffy In An Amount Not To Exceed \$35,900.00

Res#23- 190 Authorize Temporary Street Closing In Connection With New Jersey Sharing Network 5k Celebration Of Life On May 20, 2023

Res#23- 191 Authorizing The Payment Of Bills

Res#23- 192 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Granting Leave Of Absence To John Lalanas

CONSENT AGENDA

Offered by: Brantley Seconded by: York
Vote: Brantley Yes Lane Yes Williams Absent York Yes Cafferty Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker’s time.

Name and Address

Comment

Janet Fasano, 313 Woodmere Ave.

Ms. Fasano has an issue with the change to collection of yard waste. Residents are now required to place yard waste on the side of the road rather than a container. This new process leads to the materials drifting down the road and blowing back on the yards. Ms. Fasano stated the new process also requires equipment that scratches the service of the roads and causing damage. Ms. Fasano requested that the Township Committee return to the process of use of the green containers.

Ms. Fasano stated when local streets are paved, they are only paved on one side of the street.

Paul Kaplan, 89 Mt. Zion Way

Mr. Kaplan stated that the Marquette in Asbury Park will be doing work to include a 5,000 seat theatre. Mr. Kaplan stated this will exacerbate the parking issues in Ocean Grove.

Barbara Burns, 4 Ocean Ave.

Ms. Burns stated she has previously brought up inspections of the cottages and tents in Ocean Grove and asked for an update. Ms. LaPlaca stated that the Attorney and Construction Official will be meeting in the morning to address the application.

Shane Martins, 138 Mt. Hermon Way.

Mr. Martins stated Neptune United will be doing its first food drive which will be accepted until May 5th. Mr. Martins stated that Mayor indicated a conversation would be had with Ocean Grove Camp Meeting about the crosses and badges.

Richard Williams, 1 Abbot Ave.

Mr. Williams asked about the noise ordinance in town. Mr. Williams stated Camp meeting begins prepping their music at 7:00AM. Mr. Williams asked if there could be a follow up on when music is allowed to begin.

Mr. Williams asked if there is an update on the electric charging stations planned for Ocean Grove.

Mr. Williams asked if there will be any regulations implemented or adopted regarding charging of vehicles such as power cords run across sidewalks.

Mr. Williams asked what entity determines if electric bicycles are allowed on the boardwalk.

Mr. Anthony stated the Township Attorney is in negotiation with Camp Meeting over the agreement.

Mr. Anthony stated there is a code issue with the power cables across sidewalks. Mr. Anthony stated there is not a municipal right of way in Ocean Grove and because of this, additional conversations need to occur with the Code department.

Ms. Greenblad stated she has previously asked about the pier inspections and permits.

Ms. Greenblad stated that railings and benches on the pier, do they count as structures?

Ms. Greenblad stated she has heard the pier moves "a lot" and she does not understand why it was not inspected.

Mr. Anthony stated the State, and in some cases, the federal government handles the inspections.

Ms. Greenblad asked about the Zoning and HPC approvals and not being granted to the pier. Mr. Anthony stated the land use law does not apply.

Ms. Greenblad asked if the Mayor has met with the president of Camp Meeting Association. Mayor Cafferty stated he had no update at this time.

Ms. Clarke thanked Mr. Haney for his reply after the last Township Committee meeting.

Ms. Clarke wanted to discuss the sidewalk ordinance including the blocking of the sidewalk and how this would affect businesses.

Ms. Clarke asked if there is a report of the Police Committee and there have been conversations regarding Chief of Police and is asking for an update.

Ms. Clarke asked for an update for inspections on the tents and cottages and expressed concern regarding fire safety.

Ms. Clarke raised questions about the 104 Clark, 103 Franklin, and 37 Main Ave. properties and was wondering if they are scheduled or permitted for demolition.

Mr. Lamont thanked Deputy Mayor York for promoting the Neptune United Food Drive.

Mr. Lamont stated he wished to follow up with Mayor Cafferty about the discussion with Camp Meeting regarding beach badges.

Aliza Grenblad, Franklin Ave.

Nancy Clarke, 47 Embury Ave.

Robert Lamont, 86 Asbury Ave.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by: Lane

Seconded by: York

Time adjourned: 8:26PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk