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Upper Darby Township Council

First Budget Hearing

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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A special meeting of Upper Darby Township Council was held on Wednesday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 approximately five minutes after the conclusion of the regularly scheduled 7:00 meeting in the Council Meeting Room #202 of the Municipal Building, Long Lane and Garrett Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania

### **Call of the Meeting**

Members of Council  
Upper Darby Township  
Pennsylvania

Dear Members of Council:

There will be a special meeting of the Upper Darby Township Council on Wednesday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 approximately five minutes after the conclusion of the regularly scheduled meeting in the Council Meeting Room #202 of the Municipal Building, Long Lane and Garrett Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania for the following purposes:

- 1) Public Hearing for the purpose of review of the budget for the fiscal Year 2020.
- 2) For all other purposes necessary or incidental thereto.

### **Roll Call**

Donald P. Bonnett, Thomas P. Wagner, Jacob A. Bierling Jr., Sekela Coles, Robert Gwin, Barbarann Keffer, Marc Manfre, Lisa Faraglia, Sheikh M. Siddique, Patrick Spellman, Laura Wentz

Mr. Bonnett: At this time, I will turn the meeting over to the Chair of the Finance Committee, Councilman Wagner.

Councilman Wagner summarized the budget process and asked Council President Donald Bonnett to conduct a Public Hearing for the 2020 Budget.

Mr. Bonnett: Thank you Tom. At this time, Council will convene the first Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 Township Budget. Anyone who wishes to address Council, please come to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

### **Speakers**

Marguerite Wilson, 824 Drexel Avenue  
Jennifer Hallam, 4719 Woodland Avenue  
Kyle McIntyre, 1040 Drexel Avenue

Rachel Mitchell, 632 Harper Avenue  
Michelle Billups, 707 Briarcliffe Road.  
Gerald Harrison, 29 S. Kirklyn Avenue

Ms. Wilson: Marguerite Wilson, 824 Drexel Avenue, Drexel Hill. Last year at the Public Hearings, I questioned the \$3 million deficit between revenues and expenses and was told 3 times that the money would not come from the fund balance and then earlier this year, I learned that the money did come from the fund balance. Well, this budget is showing a \$1.2 million deficit between revenues and expenses and again, my question is where is that \$1.2 million going to come from?

Mr. Judge: First, I don't remember saying that the money wouldn't come from the fund balance.

Ms. Wilson: You didn't say it. You were not at 2 of the meetings, I think.

Mr. Judge: OK. The revenue shortfall will be fund balance money. It will come from the fund balance. It still will be that we're using less fund balance money, we are anticipating using less fund balance money this year than we had forecasted at the last budget hearing. We are still forecasting to be within our fund balance policy of 5%. Don't hold me to this but I believe that we will be at 5.67% of the fund balance. So, we are still within our policy for fund balance.

Ms. Wilson: I just find that concerning because I have read several articles lately and I posted a link to one online that referenced Philadelphia because it was the closest but I read several other articles about how they are projecting a recession coming up and municipalities that are relying on the fund balance at the current levels are probably going to have issues. They are saying that Philadelphia's will probably be extended by 2025 and that's not just Philadelphia so I just think we need to consider the fact that we need to prepare for this projected recession that's coming up.

Mr. Judge: The question of how much fund balance you have in the coffers vs. how you do taxes is one that is always a question that is posed by many residents that I have dealt with before and there is no question, as you say, that you have to be cognizant of where you are heading and what is going on. Last year I think we were forecasting a \$2.9 million use in the fund balance. I think we're going to use somewhere in the range of \$1.4 million or maybe \$1.5 million, we're really close, and next year we're forecasting \$1.2 million and if you use conservative management, hopefully that 1.2 won't be actual and it will be something less than that. But, when you're putting a budget together you have to, you're guessing at a lot of numbers, so you use the fund balance to hedge your guesses. So, that's what we're doing but we are using less and less of our fund balance. But, at the same time, you have to understand that you can't use so much less that it upsets the taxpayers that you're carrying so much of a fund balance. It's a tough balancing act.

Mr. Wagner: I think we should add that we certainly take your comments very seriously. They are well-stated and they are concerns that we all have. As Mr. Judge put it, we are trying to strike a balance between raising taxes and providing the essential services that we think we need to provide. Thank you.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the 2020 Budget?

Ms. Hallam: Hi. Jennifer Hallam, 4719 Woodland Avenue. First, I just want to ask if there is somewhere a line item budget that is available to the public?

Mr. Judge: Yes. The Council people all have a line item budget that they have been given. It's not public because it hasn't been voted on.....

Ms. Hallam: I understand that but we're having a Public Hearing and it's kind of hard to know what to ask about without seeing a line item budget.

Mr. Judge: I'm sure you know Council people who would be glad to share with you.

Ms. Hallam: Not everyone knows a Council person.

Mr. Judge: If you had asked me, I would have given you a line item budget. You can't put a line item on the website because it has not been approved and people take stuff on the website as factual.

Ms. Hallam: I take a little bit of umbrage to the fact that you're not giving people credit to know if it were properly explained what that budget would be.

Mr. Judge: I've been doing this job for 20 years so I know what's going on.....

Ms. Hallam: Mr. Judge, I've been working for 20 years too and I work with budgets as well.

Mr. Judge: Do you make public budgets?

Ms. Hallam: This is my time to make a statement.

Mr. Bonnett: And he has the right to answer.

Ms. Hallam: He is not....ok my question was answered. So um, ....

Mr. Bonnett: I'm giving him the floor.

Mr. Judge: You said you work with budgets. Are they public budgets that are up to scrutiny by the public every day?

Ms. Hallam: I work with public information. I work with websites.

Mr. Judge: I understand but you said you work with budgets so I'm just asking.

Ms. Hallam: And what I'm saying to you is that there are absolutely ways to communicate to a public audience that a budget is not a final budget and it is being put out for review by the public so that they can come and make educated statements and ask educated questions to their elected officials who are voting on the budget! I think it's difficult for us as constituents to come in here and ask educated questions and make educated statements when we don't actually know what is being.....

Mr. Judge: If you were that interested, did you contact me and ask me?

Ms. Hallam: I don't think I should have to contact you and ask you. I think that should be publicly available information. And, I would like to recommend that in the future, that information would be available.

Mr. Judge: Did you ask the Council people that you are friendly with to do that?

Ms. Hallam: I don't think that I should have to ask anyone. I think it should be publicly available information. It's called transparency. OK. Um, my question is, because I don't have a line item budget, I don't know the answer to this; I happen to live with an uncle who is physically disabled with cerebral palsy. He has issues with mobility walking and when he goes out he uses a wheelchair so I am very cognizant when I am moving in the streets in own neighborhood where there are areas that are accessible for wheelchairs and for other kinds of mobility aid. Very often, I have encountered situations where there are sidewalks that are not.....

Mr. Bonnett: Does this have to do with the budget?

Ms. Hallam: Yes it does. I was in Bywood a few weeks ago walking around and I noticed that there are a number of sidewalks in a certain radiance where you can barely walk down them on foot let alone by a wheelchair. So, my question to you in terms of line item budget is that I think we are living in a time and a place that we should be thinking proactively about what we are doing for our disabled community, about making Upper Darby accessible for all people and I'm wondering if there is money in our budget somewhere, in our Capital budget, in some budget somewhere, that is being put aside to take care of making our Township more accessible for people, which it isn't right now.

Mr. Bonnett: So, every sidewalk that fronts a residential or business property, it is up to the property owner to maintain that sidewalk.

Ms. Hallam: These are not streets that are in front of houses.

Mr. Bonnett: There is an Ordinance of the Township that makes them responsible. They are therefore responsible for any capital improvement to correct.....

Ms. Hallam: Are they responsible for signage that is put up in the middle of their sidewalk, like stop signs?

Mr. Bonnett: We are responsible for stop signs.

Ms. Hallam: Well, that was one of the big issues that there are signs and telephone poles in the middle of streets that are not facing residential properties. So, I would like to know if that is something that has been discussed and if there is money being put into a budget for this.

Mr. Judge: Mr. Bonnett, the question about the telephone poles or the signs that get put on there is the width of the sidewalk. The width of the sidewalk is the property owner's responsibility, not the Township, or the state if it is a state highway. So, the width of the sidewalk is their responsibility, not our responsibility. And I do acknowledge that there are certain sidewalks where it's hard to get more than 2 people passing sideways. Look at Long Lane but that was a state project where they took away sidewalks so the residents could have parking along Long Lane and it was indented. So, it's really the property owner that -----the sidewalk but I do acknowledge that there are streets, telephone poles and signs that do encroach on that sidewalk.

Mr. Bonnett: So, I think the answer to Ms. Hallam's question is that we do not have money.....

Mr. Judge: No, we do not have money set aside.

Ms. Hallam: I would then like to propose that some money be put into the budget for those issues. Thank you.

Mr. Bonnett: You're welcome. Does anyone else wish to address Council on the 2020 Budget? Sir?

Mr. McIntyre: Kyle McIntyre, 1040 Drexel Avenue. OK, uh huh, let's get this underway. I just want to first address though before we begin, Mr. Judge, I don't know if you know what the term "mansplaining" is but what I just saw was absolutely unacceptable. OK, I understand that things get heated and I understand that you want to explain things but...

Mr. Bonnett: Mr. McIntyre, do you have anything to talk about regarding the budget?

Mr. McIntyre: I do, I do, I do. I just want to make sure that you know that you can't just go around and keep interrupting people like that especially when it is.....

Mr. Bonnett: Mr. McIntyre, please let's hear your comments on the budget.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. McIntyre, let's hear your comments on the budget. You don't need to be lecturing people.

Mr. McIntyre: All right, all right, all right. So, starting off, I would like to know what is going to be in the budget for Sanitation for removal of trash and litter at 69<sup>th</sup> Street. Is there anything in the budget currently to address that issue?

Mr. Judge: We have people assigned to it. We do not have a number that says these 15 people assigned to picking up trash in 69<sup>th</sup> Street will require this much money because it is the sum cost into our assignment of work. Every morning we have a trash truck that goes down to 69<sup>th</sup> Street and picks up trash and replenishes the trash bags. Every afternoon, roughly around 2:30-3:00 pm, we have another crew that goes down and picks up that trash and replaces the trash bags. That's done with our assigned staff who picks up trash normally. I do not have a number that says that the 35 or 40 minutes that they spend picking up there is in the budget.

Mr. Bonnett: The point is, we do it and we have funds.

Mr. Judge: We do it in our Sanitation budget number.

Mayor Micozzie: The Economic Development Plan that they're working on with the other budgets that we have, they're working on street committees who are business owner associations that will contribute to clean those areas up. I've had this discussion and I don't think it's the Township's responsibility to clean up trash in front of stores. It becomes a major expense. Once you do it once, what happens now, I go through there, the trash cans are ----- but that street gets picked up and I believe that community service members come through on weekends and 3 times a week, Tom?

Mr. Judge: Three times a week.

Mayor Micozzie: They do pick up our intersections and our street sweeper does that but to do a full -----Long Lane business district -----real hard to get those tax credits or whatever we have to do to improve those neighborhood businesses.

Mr. McIntyre: I guess another part of my question is under Leisure Services, we have a trash removal line item budget and that's only \$2500 and actually most of the employees will get a raise higher this year than we will be paying for Leisure Services to remove trash. Is that correct? Am I reading this correct?

Mr. McMullan: That's correct. It's for unusual materials that need to be removed and hauled away to a different facility. It's not typical trash pick-up.

Mr. McIntyre: I guess another question is, in this budget are there any general obligation bonds being released for the budget or is it just like this is all going to be paid for by taxes and the current fund balance?

Mr. Judge: I'm not sure I understand the question. Can I re-phrase it and make sure I got it right? You're asking, are we borrowing money for the operating budget?

Mr. McIntyre: Yes.

Mr. Judge: The only money we're borrowing for the operating budget would be a Tax Anticipation Note, which we would hopefully borrow effective January 1 and pay it back by April 1<sup>st</sup> that we would be lent so we could pay our January, February and March bills while we wait for the taxes to come in. So yes, in that sense, we hope to borrow a Tax Anticipation Note of \$5 million. We do not capitalize our operating expense. We only do that from general fund and we take that from tax dollars. In this budget, our debt service is paying for capitalization of money that has been borrowed over the last 22 years.

Mr. McIntyre: I guess another question and I want to try to ask it in a way and not make it personal, I don't want to make it a personal question. Has any of the Administration considered the possibility of reducing their salary based on the fact of our financial stability? Not that we're financial unstable because we've already had this discussion so I'm not going to say we are financial unstable.

Mayor Micozzie: It's not personal but the only departments that are not contracts for department heads have a 0% increase in the current budget. The new Administration can do whatever they choose with the new Administration.

Mr. McIntyre: I know but we're talking about this budget and even one year's worth of pay is still a lot of money. And I guess my question goes like is what you believe is that each department heads should be paid over \$120,000 a year?

Mayor Micozzie: Absolutely. You want good quality people ----- . Some of our departments heads are underpaid.

Mr. McIntyre: The reason why I ask is because there is a lot of criticism in Philadelphia and in fact some of our people are paid just actually a good amount more than a lot of people in Philadelphia are paid.

Mayor Micozzie: I think what you're talking about is some of the positions, you have 9 department heads here and some are over \$100,000. I think if you look in Philadelphia they have department heads, 2 deputies, assistant deputies so if you look at the manpower cost, I think ----- . Again, it's in Council's budget. They can take department heads and lower their salaries. It's up to them.



Mr. McIntyre: All right. I guess I'll finish off with that I would make a suggestion that as someone who is a taxpayer whose family makes maybe if they're lucky \$100,000 and my mom has to work as a Special Ed teacher in Garnet Valley and my dad is a retired civil engineer for the Department of Transit for Pennsylvania. It's really, really, really crazy to me that we are a struggling middle class family suffering under the tax -----and property taxes of yes the school district, but also the Township. And, I appreciate the no tax raise for the Township but no tax raises is not enough. We need reduction and I think that right now when we have the salaries of some people that are in the Administration, it's absolutely egregious. To live a middle class stable life, you do not need that amount of money. You just don't. And, people are suffering and we do have financial shortfalls. My suggestion is that I would like to see some people in Council who make over \$120,000 make the commitment to the public to reduce their salaries to a middle class wage.

Mr. Wagner: Are you under the impression that there is someone on this Council making \$120,000?

Mr. McIntyre: Oh no, no no! The Council makes \$5000.

Mr. Bonnett: Just as an FYI. This Council is entitled to a raise every year. I've been on Council for a lot of years. Since 1976, when the Home Rule Charter was enacted which established that \$5000, there has not been an increase.

Mr. McIntyre: Just to go off of that real quick though on that \$5000, adjusted for inflation, that salary should actually be about \$35,000 right now and I would like to say that as somebody who might one day want to run for office, I'm not paying back my student loans with \$5000. So, to be honest, having a \$5000 salary and I'm not asking for a lot but for part time work, it really does shut out a lot of people from running for office and I view that as very undemocratic. I don't think it's purposely done. I think you guys.....

Mayor Micozzie: You realize that these are not full time jobs?

Mr. McIntyre: I know. That's why I'm saying like \$35,000 and not \$168,000 like some people make.

Mr. Wagner: I've got to ask a question because I've got to be sure I understand what you're suggesting to us. I thought about a minute or so ago, you were criticizing the fact that some of the salaries in the Administration are too high and now it sounds like you're suggesting that we give ourselves a raise?

Mr. McIntyre: I was trying to make a suggestion. Well, first off, I guess it was 2 suggestions but I was actually just responding to your comment which I really didn't appreciate. But, my actual suggestion was that there are people in this Administration, not Council, people in the Administration, appointed people. I'm OK with elected officials getting paid for the job that they are doing because I elected you. I didn't pick the people

who were appointed. That's the difference.

Mayor Micozzie: Well, actually you did because the people would be appointed by the Council that you elected.

Mr. McIntyre: Well, I wasn't born. I wasn't able to vote so....

Mayor Micozzie: -----Most of those department heads are probably here, some of in excess of 25-30 years.

Mr. McIntyre: That's fine. But they get good pensions and they have good health benefits so that's good enough. They should honestly not be making more than \$120,000.

Mr. Judge: Mr. Mayor, may I speak? Let's cut to the chase. He's talking about me because you mentioned the salary so he's talking about me so I get it. And, all I say is for myself or any department head, just do a comparison of communities of our size of our demographics, of our issue where people make department head salaries or an administrator's salary, just compare it to them. It's as simple as that. We're not the city of Philadelphia. Compare us to Radnor. Compare us to Springfield. Compare us to Haverford Township. Compare us to the city of Reading. Compare us to the city of Harrisburg. And if those salaries as they move on in the future are out of line, then Council can adjust to that. But, they're not out of line when you compare them to those locations. And that's the point that I want to make.

Mr. McIntyre: But the difference between Haverford or say you mentioned Reading and Harrisburg? The only difference between those and everything else is all of those other Townships are doing well financially and economically except for Harrisburg and Reading. That's why I was pointing that out to you.

Mr. Bonnett: So you are saying that we're not financially solvent?

Mr. McIntyre: No, I'm not saying that we're not financially solvent but I don't think that we're financially prepared for the situations that are going to come. I think that we have drained down our rainy fund balance, have we not? I understand why. It's because we didn't want to raise taxes and help the taxpayer. I understand why we did it but did we not do it? That's what I'm asking.

Mr. Wagner: Our financial advisors have publicly informed us and the general public that Upper Darby Township is in very good shape compared to typical municipalities. Some point that's got to be made in this discussion and I would just offer this to you, when you're thinking about whether some parts of this budget are too high or too expensive. Nearly 60% of Upper Darby's budget goes to just 2 things, police and fire and that is all subject to collective bargaining. We don't have that kind of flexibility with it to raise or to lower, etc. And, that's an important point to keep in mind when you're analyzing the

budget or when anyone is analyzing this budget.

Mr. McIntyre: That's completely fair but as a taxpayer, that's my suggestion.

Mr. Wagner: Very well. Thank you.

Mr. McIntyre: I will see you guys next week with a lot more questions. Thank you so much.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the proposed 2020 Budget?

Ms. Mitchell: Rachel Mitchell, 632 Harper Avenue. Thank you so much for having this public hearing tonight. One of the things that I've been noticing as a resident is the leaves that are piled in the streets. I'm just wondering if there is a plan in the budget for leaf collection for 2020 because it seems like it's starting to become an expectation of the community. Also, is there anything in the budget to improve our parks and recreation?

Mr. Judge: The answer to your first question about leaf collection; there is not anything in the 2020 budget. For Leisure Services and Parks improvements, we do have money in Parks. We have identified parks that need to be repaired and we are spending quite a bit of money now to improve the Dermond Field and we did get some grant money through the County to improve I think it is 7 smaller parks. So, we're working on bringing all of that information together and hopefully we can start using that in the spring of next year.

Ms. Mitchell: While I'm not able to attend all of the meetings because I also serve as a volunteer on our school board, one of the things that I've noticed in watching some of the videos online that some of the residents have put on is that everything really goes to quality of life. So, people are talking about the parks, the recreation, the streets. Some people's streets are cleaned and some aren't. It is a concern so I would urge you to put some money into some of the concerns that you've heard here for the last year from some of these residents especially down in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> districts for parks and recreation. Kids and families need things to do that are good things to do.

Mr. Judge: One of the very hard things with improving parks is you have to take a park out of service. Let's talk about Cardington Field right now. Cardington Field is used day in and day out, weekends, nights, 12 hours a day. Five years ago we took it out of service and repaired it and it didn't last. To do that, we have to take it out of service and we are short parks in our community and that is one of the reasons that we're buying St. Eugene's so that we can have an additional park because you can't take a park like Cardington out of service for two weeks to give it time to repair. And, that's one of the things we struggle with all the time. How do we take a park out of service or a basketball court out of service for a short period of time to fix it and not negatively impact the residents? It's a tough decision.

Ms. Mitchell: Yes, I know but I think it goes towards quality of life and if you've been hearing the people, although I don't always agree with the way they are approaching the Council, they are really concerned about their quality of life. One of the other things, is there any other money in the budget besides the price of the open space for passive recreation at the new open space? Will there be bocce ball courts or any type of equipment there for the community to use that open space? Or, is it just going to be an open field? Is there going to be playground equipment or a fitness type thing like some other communities that you go into and they have a little fitness thing going on for adult recreation?

Mr. Judge: I think until the Administration had the approval of Council to buy it, which we do have now, thinking about those plans would be ahead of ourselves. But, you are absolutely right. It has to be some type of multi-purpose facility. I have to tell you straight off the bat that we need a soccer field really bad in the Township but we also need other facilities to complement that and that's the thing that the Leisure Services folks and hopefully some of the consultants that we hired through some of the grant money that we received will come up with designing them.

Ms. Mitchell: What about, is there anything in the budget for the beautiful plants that I saw for the 69<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, the community gathering spaces, the trees, the trashcans, things like that that I saw in a presentation -----Is there anything like that in the 2020 budget?

Mr. Judge: There is money in the budget for that type of work. Is it for the specifics that you said? I would have to go back and look but there is money in the budget to improve streetscaping in the 69<sup>th</sup> Street area, yes.

Ms. Mitchell: How much?

Mr. Judge: I would have to get that for you. I don't know off the top of my head. It's part of the Capital budget but there is also some operating budget. I don't remember that now. I will get that and email that to you.

Ms. Mitchell: Could I give you my email address because I am really interested in that?

Mr. Judge: I do have your email address.

Ms. Mitchell: You do? I appreciate it. I do things those types of things are a priority of the community and I think we've heard it and seen it. Even with the Aronimink project, I've had community members approach me about putting passive recreation of the property for adults. So, I would highly consider you to put something in the budget for that piece of property since it is going to be a reality for the community. So, I appreciate all of the hard work that you're doing. These jobs are important jobs and we do need highly qualified people so I want to make sure that that is also included in the budget.

Mr. Bonnett: Ms. Mitchell, I want to also comment that this past spring, the Council invested a great deal of improvement to Dermond Field and it has been really well received.

Ms. Mitchell: It's beautiful. Thank you.

Mr. Manfre: May I comment, Mr. Chairman, being the Leisure Services Committee Chair? I think Rachel brings up some great points and one of things that I would like to see happen, and it's always been in the back of my mind, is developing a task force for some of these projects and have input from our community. We have a Park Board/Advisory Board in Delaware County and I think suggestions like that from an Advisory Board such as the Park Board would be a great thing.

Mr. Judge: Marc, if I may, that was part of the Comprehensive Plan suggestion. The one thing is that we have got to get quality facilities to start that process and until you buy a property like St. Eugene's where you can use it to close playground X down while they go over here to play, that makes it very very hard. But, now I think we can move forward with something along those lines.

Ms. Mitchell: And so as we look at our tax base, those type of things are extremely important to our community to increase our tax base. When they see the Township investing in our parks and our streets, that's how businesses want to come here and want to be part of it. That helps to increase our property values. That increases our tax base.

Mr. Judge: Businesses don't want to come here right now because they know they get sued all the time.

Ms. Mitchell: Well, thank you for your time and I really appreciate it. I hope you consider putting some things in the budget that are priorities for the community.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the proposed 2020 Budget?

Ms. Billups: Hi, I'm Michelle Billups. I just have a quick question because everybody was talking about streets. Is there any money in the budget, because I live in 19082, and I have never had my street swept or cleaned but I know that 19026 does.

Mr. Judge: They go around. They are up and down the streets in 19082 because I do check them.

Ms. Billups: Yeah, they aren't in my neighborhood.

Mr. Judge: I don't know where your neighborhood is but I'm going to tell you straight out.....

Ms. Billups: I live at 707 Briarcliffe Road.

Mr. Judge: They do go down those streets because I look at the calendar and I do go out in the car periodically to make sure that the street sweeper is doing there because that is a complaint that we hear quite often. The problem is that they have to go down the middle of the street because nobody moves their car. So, that's an issue. They're not getting curb to curb when they go down there to clean. So, you're not seeing a curb to curb clean-up because the cars are all parked there and do we ticket the cars? That's a Council decision to make but I am going to take exception that you said that the street sweepers never go down to 19082.

Ms. Billups: What I said is that I have not seen them down 19082. I have not seen them down Briarcliffe Road. That's what I said and that's the street that I live on. I'm not saying that I have not seen them anywhere else in 19082. I'm saying that I have not seen them on my street. And -----because I can park, and I always do, I park in the back of my house. I think if you tell the residents, you know what, move your car....

Mr. Judge: Hmmm.

Ms. Billups: Not it's not Hmmm. People will move their cars.

Mr. Judge: No they don't. We've tried it but the alternative is, and this is a Council action, do they want us to ticket the cars? Do they want us to tow the cars? That's one of the options that people have to decide. If they want the street sweeping from curb to curb, the street has to be clear of cars and we do publish in your trash calendar, your sanitation calendar a schedule of street sweeping. It's on the back pages of the street sweeping schedule. I can tell you that people don't move their cars. Even if they're asked they don't move them.

Ms. Billups: OK. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson: My name is Lonnie Johnson from the 7<sup>th</sup> District. -----comments about street sweeping. I know something was put in the calendar recently but prior to that there was no schedule. Is there a possibility that we can get a sign posted just like "Don't let your dog poop here or whatever?" You can put a sign "move your car from this side to that side."

Mr. Judge: I will tell you that the street sweeping schedule has been in the calendar for the past 2 calendar years, 2018 and 2019.

Mr. Johnson: I used to call and they would tell me.

Mr. Judge: I can get you a copy of 2018 and 2019. It's in there. To put up a sign up there, the Administration cannot do that unless acted on by Council.

Mr. Johnson: So, what do you need? A petition?

Mr. Judge: I need Council to make the decision. Individual Council people need to make the decision what they want done on their streets and then vote on it.

Mr. Johnson: Because that would help greatly. I've seen in Sharon Hill and other Townships where they actually have signs posted.

Mr. Judge: You can't be there Tuesdays between 9 and 11.

Mr. Johnson: And if they are you can ticket them.

Mr. Judge: That's a Council action. They can do that. And if they do, the Administration will install the signs.

Mr. Johnson: How do you go about getting that?

Ms. Coles: Mr. Johnson, that's something that I've been bringing up the last few months at Council, something also that a constituent in a neighboring district had brought up. I've seen and talked to some Council people in neighboring municipalities where they do have the signs installed where people are fined if they don't move their vehicles between certain hours on the street sweeping days. I brought that up and I asked for the Municipal Services Committee to look at that.

Mr. Bonnett: That is actually in Committee.

Mr. Johnson: How long has it been in Committee?

Mr. Bonnett: Since last month.

Mr. Johnson: So, can I get some feedback?

Ms. Coles: That is something that I think we definitely need at least in our neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson: And they come once a month on a Tuesday?

Mr. Judge: I believe it's twice a month.

Mr. Johnson: -----the lady before when she talked about quality of life. Is there money in the budget for abandoned vehicles and things of that nature?

Mr. Judge: We do tow abandoned vehicles. It's not a line item budget. It's in our salary budget for our Health and Property Maintenance folks and we do have line item in there for board-ups.....

Mr. Johnson: Because I've been trying to get a vehicle moved since June.

Mr. Judge: Is it on the street?

Mr. Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Judge: There are certain rules that have to be followed if it's in the back of someone's house or if it's on the street. If it's on the street, we have to follow our police rules which are dictated by the state. If you give me your address.....

Mr. Johnson: I've talked to several administrative reps, I even talked to my Council person....

Ms. Coles: We've been talking back and forth with Nicole.

Mr. Johnson: I talked to Megan.

Mr. Judge: I want to find out where exactly it is because Police Officer Mike Scott is the guy who posts them and that's the point.

Mr. Johnson: He's a community liaison?

Mr. Judge: Yes. He is the Community Affairs Police Officer and he is the one who would put the abandoned sticker on it. We post a sticker and then wait 48 hours. Then, we're allowed to tow it.

Mr. Johnson: Like I said, I've been trying to get this done since June.

Mr. Judge: That's what I want to find out and maybe the Councilwoman or yourself can give me the address. Can you send me the email and I'll talk to Officer Scott and Superintendent Chitwood?

Mr. Johnson: Because I haven't heard anything back. So, will I get some feedback from you?

Mr. Judge: You will get something back from me if Councilwoman Coles gives me your contact number. I will do that.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the proposed 2020 Budget?

Mr. Harrison: Gerald Harrison, 29 S. Kirklyn Avenue. I'd like to reinforce the question or request already asked this evening and that is line items. I've come before this Council a



number of times and line items is something that I've asked for. I thought the question was a very reasonable one. If you're going to have a discussion about a budget, the knowledge is tentative. It's not final and no one is going to hold anyone to it. It should be available before so that people who are interested and have the unusual proclivity to want to crunch numbers and do arithmetic, I'm one of them, have those numbers available and understood before there is a discussion of questions and answers about them. So, I just want to reiterate that. Line items should be understood as a precursor part of any kind of discussion of budgets or any other numerical data. So, I'm putting that forth for the future that that be understood. Even though 99% of people don't want to crunch numbers and do the arithmetic, there are a few. I think you and I Mr. Judge share that proclivity. We like to crunch numbers when we have to get it clear so we numbers to crunch.

Mr. Judge: Mr. Harrison, I will send you a line item budget and I'll send the other young lady a copy of the line item budget that is there. We are in disagreement as to whether or not it should be posted. That's acknowledgeable. I don't disagree that people who ask me for it shouldn't get it. I will give it to anybody who asks me for it. That's my opinion. But, everybody who asks should get a copy of it.

Mr. Harrison: Can I get it from you before a week from now so I have a chance to crunch a little bit.

Mr. Judge: I will put it in the mail tomorrow morning. If I will scan it in, I will email it to both of you.

Mr. Harrison: Thank you very much.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the proposed 2020 Budget?

Ms. Keffer: I have a question. Is there a breakdown of the grant money that the Township is receiving from the County for the different park programs that we applied for? It's \$150,000 from the County for St. Eugene's.

Mr. Judge: Yes. We have never been notified by the County of the grant money. We did take it off the webpage and I will give Council a copy of what we took off the webpage for the breakdown. But, we have not received official notification from the County that we got the money but they put official notice on their webpage that these are the monies. So, I am.....

Ms. Keffer: So, any money that we would get through that grant program is completely separate from the budget that we're discussing now.

Mr. Judge: The grant money was not included in the budget because this budget had to be presented on October 1<sup>st</sup> and we didn't get the grant money until later in October.

Ms. Keffer: Thank you.

Ms. Wentz: I have a question. So, when you were doing the presentation, you had talked about, and you mentioned it tonight, the TAN, the Tax Anticipation Note that we're getting \$5 million to be able to pay the bills from January to April and that caused a \$50,000 interest each month before we pay it off?

Mr. Judge: No.

Ms. Wentz: Well, there's a \$50,000 interest in the budget.

Mr. Judge: It's in the budget but it's not each month. It's an annual budget and it's a best guess because we have not finalized our agreement with a lending agency yet. We are looking at trying to get it done and we are looking at hopefully, to be truthful, I hope we pay less in interest than that when we borrow the money but we have to be prepared to put more in than what we think. But, it's not a monthly figure. It's an annual figure.

Ms. Wentz: So last year, my understanding was that we took from the fund balance in order to help cover our costs for the beginning months, January and February, so that we had some wiggle room until all of the taxes started pouring in.

Mr. Judge: We did not borrow a Tax Anticipation Note because we felt that the fund balance money that we had would allow us not to borrow money. We did that the last 3 years.

Ms. Wentz: So then, when Ms. Wilson was up here asking about the \$1.9 million that is being used to take from the, almost \$2 million being paid by the fund balance, what is that for if it is not for balancing or taking care of January through April if we are getting a \$5 million note for the TAN?

Mr. Judge: We are probably going to use some of the fund balance that is in there and some of the \$5 million. If you look at what we have in our expenses in January, February, March and a good part of April, we are probably spending \$4.7 million each month. So, we're hoping to use some of the fund balance and some of the money borrowed to cover those expenses in those months. But, the point is when we get the tax dollars back, the money goes into the fund balance first, immediately. It goes back in and we replenish the fund balance and as Council will acknowledge, last year we had to take money from the allocated fund balance for police and fire overtime. We forecast police and fire overtime as best we can. I can tell you every number I put out there is wrong. It's just wrong because we either under guess or over guess what we think our overtime is going to be. More often than not, we under guess what it is going to be because of outside circumstances which are injuries and those types of situations. But, that's where the fund balance is basically being targeted for.

Ms. Wentz: OK. And then you also said in your presentation earlier this evening that the department head's salaries had been frozen? But, when I was looking at.....

Mr. Judge: There are 2 mistakes in that. The department head of the Electrical Department and the department head of Parking Enforcement and they are errors that I made.

Ms. Wentz: Was that page 7?

Mr. Judge: I don't know what page it was. But, that was an error I made when I did the line item budget for those individuals and I gave you a copy of their salaries. For some reason, I did not zero out the increases for those 2 individuals.

Ms. Wentz: So, there's no way for me to know what they are because it doesn't say that one is the Electrical but the job title.....

Mr. Judge: I will tell you the names afterwards. I will tell you the 2 individuals....

Ms. Wentz: There's a third individual that also had an increase as well on the same page as 2 others who have the increase.

Mr. Judge: Department heads?

Ms. Wentz: They're not represented by a union so therefore I thought that maybe....

Mr. Judge: No, they may not be department heads. Several people are assistants that are not represented by the union.

Ms. Wentz: They're not represented as assistants either.

Mr. Judge: Just tell me the name and I'll be glad to do it if you want to wait or if you just want to wait until the end. I stand ready to answer any question during the day if you'll tell me the names after the meeting, I'll be glad to give you an explanation but without having the paperwork I can't.

Ms. Wentz: No, I'm sorry. I just didn't have a chance to look it so that's why I had questions. We'll meet later.

Mr. Judge: No, that's fine.

Ms. Wentz: So, I think those are the question that I have at the moment and I will definitely have more next week. Thank you.

Mr. Bonnett: Does anyone else wish to address Council on the proposed 2020 Budget?

Mr. Judge: Mr. Gwin, do you have any? I know you are on the Finance Committee and it was raised that somebody on the Finance Committee had additional questions. Mr. Bierling?

Mr. Bierling: I have no questions.

Mr. Gwin: It was me.

Mr. Judge: I just want to make sure that I've given everybody the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Gwin: No problem. I've told you before that I know you've been cooperative with this trying to identify people as to which department it is and try to trace that to the budget.

Mr. Judge: It's a line item in the budget.

Mr. Gwin: Yes, and that's where I.....

Mr. Judge: I just wanted to make sure that I didn't leave a question on the table.

Mr. Bonnett: With that, seeing no one else wishing to speak at this Budget Hearing, we will consider this first hearing for the 2020 Budget closed and we will take no action on the budget this evening. I will now turn this meeting back over to Councilman Wagner.

Mr. Wagner: That does conclude the first hearing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing will be on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 here in this room immediately after the Committee Meeting. And, with that, I turn the meeting back over to President Bonnett.

Mr. Bonnett: Thank you Tom. At this time, a Motion would be in order for adjournment.

Mr. Bierling: So moved.

Ms. Wentz: Second.

Mr. Bonnett: Moved and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. This meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Richard G. Nolan*