

**TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2018

1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Tanella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilman Kumburis, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, Township Clerk Stutz

Absent: Councilwoman Peterson

The flag salute was led by Mayor Tanella.

Mayor Tanella made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger by fax and on March 12, 2018, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building Lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider introduction of Pending Ordinance #17-823 to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title only:

PENDING ORDINANCE NO. 18-823

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove in the County of Essex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2018 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$412,787.06 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, in the County of Essex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2018 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Cedar Grove shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$412,787.06, and that the CY 2018 municipal budget for the Township of Cedar Grove be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved that Pending Ordinance #17-823 be passed at first reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a pending ordinance with a public hearing of April 2, 2018, seconded by Councilman Kumburis, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

b) To consider Introduction of 2018 Municipal Budget

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a summary of said budget be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times in the issue of April 5, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on May 7, 2018 at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2018 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

General Appropriations for:

1. Appropriations within "CAPS"
 - (a) Municipal Purposes \$12,303,505.00
2. Appropriations excluded from "CAPS"

	(a) Municipal Purposes	\$ 2,374,029.22
3.	Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 560,000.00
4.	Total General Appropriations	\$15,237,534.22
5.	Less Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current Property Tax	\$ 4,204,718.42
6.	Difference: Amount to be raised by taxes	
	(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 10,268,751.41
	(b) Addition to Local District School Tax	
	(c) Minimum Library Tax	\$ 764,064.39

The Township Manager provided an overview of the 2018 Municipal Budget. Mr. Tucci advised that the total general appropriation for 2018 is \$15,237,534, which amounts to an increase of approximately \$602,871 more than the 2017 budget. Mr. Tucci advised that the amount to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes is \$10,268,751, the exact amount allowed under the 2% CAP law. Mr. Tucci cited other factors outside the Township's control that continue to impact the budget, including deficits in the swimming utility and water utility. The Manager further noted that the proposed local tax rate of \$0.495, compared to \$0.484 in 2017. Mr. Tucci advised that the average assessed value of a home increased to \$467,100, compared to \$465,000 in 2017 and anticipated a \$61.55 increase in the local portion of average assessed home's tax levy.

Councilman Kumburis moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

c) To consider Introduction of 2018 Solid Waste Collection District Budget

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Solid Waste Collection District Budget for the year 2018 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a summary of said budget be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times in the issue of April 5, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on May 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2018 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons;

General Appropriations for:

Total Solid Waste Collection District Appropriations	\$ 1,863,617.00
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Amount to be raised by Taxation	\$ 1,630,464.00
for Support of Solid Waste Collection District	

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

d) To consider resolution concerning deferral of school tax levy

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, the Local School District Tax for the year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was raised in the 2017 Tax Levy in the sum of \$28,294,388.00 ; and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of the cash liability of such School Tax up to fifty (50%) of the School Tax Levy or \$14,147,194.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the Deferred School Tax for the Local School District be increased from the sum of \$13,434,982.00 which was deferred as of December 31, 2016 to the sum of \$14,147,194.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Councilman Kumburis moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cicala, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

3. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on any item on the agenda.

Charles Dovico; 111 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico requested clarification of the proposed tax increase. Mr. Tucci explained that amount referenced pertains to the municipal portion of a property owner’s tax bill only.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Vargo moved adjournment of the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cicala Cicala, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Cicala, Kumburis, Longo, Deputy Mayor Maffucci, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

PETER H. TANELLA MAYOR

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK