

Mayor Sobel opened the meeting to the public for remarks or comments on the 2007 Municipal Budget.

John Gartley
1089 Woodmere Drive

Mr. Gartley asked if the municipal budget tax rate is flat.

Mayor Sobel stated it is flat. The tax bill each year goes up, the last 10 years the municipal share of your tax bill gone from 22% to 14.5%. When we distribute the tax bills each summer we provide a pie chart to show where your tax dollars are going. Over the last 10 years 1/3 of your municipal share has gone down. A large percentage of your tax bills are related to the school district.

Mr. Gartley asked why the school district is so high.

Mayor Sobel stated there are a lot of reason why? Look what it cost to education a student in this region. Look at teacher salaries, their health coverage, pension costs, there are a lot of reasons.

Mr. Gartley asked what about JPI and the pilot program.

Mayor Sobel stated the most students coming out JPI Apartments are 11 students. That development increased ratables by \$200,000 there has been no negative impact on the school district.

Mr. Gartley asked how long the solid waste contract is.

Mr. Brown stated five years.

Ben Defenbaugh
June Place

Mr. Defenbaugh stated what he has seen the Town has tried to keep the taxes down and do the right thing. The school budget is completely out of whack. Bruce Quinn is out of control. He doesn't see how a senior citizens or young couple can live in Aberdeen. The school budget is in the top three. He doesn't seem to care.

Mayor Sobel stated budget process is for representatives from each municipality to meet, which we will do next week. If we can come to an agreement that we feel is an appropriate cut of the budget we will have a follow-up meeting with the School District. The School is not obligated to accept our recommendations. It would than go to State and they will make a final determination.

Mr. Defenbaugh stated they should realize this was a large amount of votes against the budget.

Jeff Brantley
47 Cypress Street

Mr. Brantley stated he understands in this budget is an emergency temporary appropriation.

Mr. Brown stated that is the temporary budget. Prior to adopting this budget we operate on a temporary budget until the budget is passed.

Mr. Brantley asked about bond ordinances.

Mr. Brown stated our November bond ordinance was a refunding bond ordinance for our sewer utility. Interest rates were favorable which allows us to go a year or two longer without a rate increase. It is part of our debt management. The Bond ordinances introduced at the last council meeting authorizes our capital expenses, vehicles, road improvement, etc.

Mr. Brantley stated he has a serious concern about the amount of bonds.

Mr. Brown explained the bond process of the Township.

John Gartley

1089 Woodmere Drive

Mr. Gartley asked what is the budget amount.

Mr. Brown stated \$14,037,000.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Sobel closed the public hearing on the 2007 Municipal and Solid Waste Collection District Budgets.

Deputy Mayor Gumbs made a motion to close the public hearing on Resolution No. 2007-50, 2007 Municipal Budget and Resolution No. 2007-51, 2007 Solid Waste Collection District Budget and reserve decision.

Seconded by Councilman Drapkin

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmen Drapkin, Minutolo, Perry, Vinci, Deputy Mayor Gumbs and Mayor Sobel

Nays: None

Abstain: None

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS/CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Mayor Sobel asked any member of the public wishing to be heard to come forward and to state their name and address.

John Gartley

1089 Woodmere Drive

Mr. Gartley stated talking about the political signs. Each one of those signs have who paid for it. The State Elec Commission states you can put up a sign 60 days before an election and taken down 30 days after. There are already laws on the book. There is also a State Statute on putting signs on a telephone or electric poll.

Councilman Drapkin stated your right, but that is not what we are looking at.

Mr. Gartley stated if you are considering an Auditor for the school budget, it may not be a bad idea to shop around.

Mr. Brown stated we solicit proposals for auditing services every year, we do have a contractual rate for services like this. We only have three weeks to pass a resolution. It is also a problem with time. Last year, I believe it cost Matawan \$3000.

Mr. Gartley stated the signs for Aberdeen Day can not be read. His suggestion is to bring it closer to the road.

Mr. Gartley stated you mentioned we can not bond for current debt. The State did it and had to get a Court ruling, you are allowed to do it for one year.

Janice Striker
471 Beverly Drive

Ms. Striker stated she called awhile back asking if there is an ordinance on the fire pits and there was none. Unfortunately, when it is put close to the property line it is going to affect your neighbor. We can't even keep our windows open.

Mr. Brown asked to talk to him after the meeting and he will have the fire inspector contact you. There is State Fire Codes.

Jeff Brantley
47 Cypress Street

Mr. Brantley asked about the Mass Transit parking lot budget.

Mr. Brown stated the parking lot is owned by New Jersey Transit and we lease it from them. We get the revenue in and deduct our expenses used to operate the lot.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Sobel closed the public portion.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Minutolo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gumbs and unanimously concurred by Council.

David G. Sobel, Mayor

Karen Ventura, Municipal Clerk

**ABERDEEN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007**

Present: Owen Drapkin
Nicholas Minutolo
Thomas Perry (7:15 pm)
Vincent Vinci
Wilhelmina Gumbs
David G. Sobel

Absent: Joseph Raymond

Also Present: Stuart Brown, Township Manager
Colleen Paterson, Township Attorney

Mayor Sobel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that notice of this meeting has been posted and published in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Brown stated at the last Council meeting, Council discussed a developer contribution ordinance and sign ordinance which the attorney supplied tonight. Council can review the ordinances and we can put them on for introduction at the next council meeting.

Colleen Paterson stated the problem on the sign ordinance is a violation of freedom of speech.

Mayor Sobel stated no, you are just saying you can not put more than one sign at one location.

Colleen Paterson stated we can look into it. It is tough to regulate signs and signs on public and private property.

Mayor Sobel stated first it is an eye sore, they blow away and it is a litter problem, and third the public works employees have to clean up. Is that how our tax dollars are spent.

Colleen Paterson stated it is tough to draft something that would not offend freedom of speech.

Mr. Brown stated private property owners have to give permission.

Colleen Paterson stated the 2nd ordinance bans contributions from developers. Which falls under pay to play.

Mr. Brown stated there is one other ordinance on for next week, Stormwater Ordinance under the sewer utility.

Mr. Brown stated New Jersey American Water Co. got approval from the State to start the

replacement of water main in the "I" section. A letter will go out to residents prior to construction.

Mr. Brown stated the Beach clean-up is this Saturday, from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 pm.

Mr. Brown stated the voters turn down the School Budget. The Matawan Administrator and Mr. Brown discussed a joint committee of both Councils meeting next week, a resolution on the budget will be due May 19, 2007.

Council agreed that Mr. Brown should meet with the Matawan Administrator and Bruce Quinn first.

Councilman Minutolo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Vinci and unanimously concurred by Council.

David G. Sobel, Mayor

Karen Ventura, Municipal Clerk