

March 15, 2004

A special budget meeting of the Riverton Borough Council was held on the above date. Mayor Martin presiding.

**PRESENT:** Council members Daniel, Villari, Smyth, Cesaretti, Alls-Moffatt, Solicitor Bruce Gunn and Auditor Robert Stewart

**ABSENT:** Council member Gilmore

Mayor Martin read the following statement

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

(a) Having written notification of this meeting published in the Burlington County Times on February 18, 2004 and

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on February 25, 2004

**TREASURER'S & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS-Mr. Smyth**

Mr. Smyth made a motion that the attached Treasurer's & Finance Committee Reports for the month of February be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore absent, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

**2004 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Council reviewed the current revenue and expenditure listing for all of the line items in the budget. Mr. Stewart provided detailed information regarding the reasons why the proposed tax increase for 2004 is so high (20 cents). Mr. Stewart reminded Council that no decision had been reached regarding the capital portion of this year's budget. Mr. Stewart cautioned Council that they must reach a consensus about the budget very soon. If they don't, the State might step in and do the budget for them. Fire Chief Scott Reed gave a detailed explanation as to why the Borough needs to purchase a new fire truck. A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding the budget.

**Michael Heine, 206 Carriage House Lane**, raised budget concerns such as the contractual increase regarding police salaries, insurance costs, etc.

**Bernie O'Reilly, 200 Lippincott Avenue**, strongly believes that commercial properties are not paying enough in taxes. She believes Council should address this ongoing issue.

**Mary Ann Shea, 205 Bank Avenue**, believes that some homeowners fight to get their taxes reduced. Ms. Shea also stated that she believes the Borough has codes already on the books regarding property maintenance. She voiced her opposition to any proposed commercial property maintenance code.

**William Harris, 502 Cinnaminson Street**, believes Council should get our engineer to look at our present fire truck to determine if a new one is really needed. Mr. Harris voiced strong concern about the proposed tax increase this year.

**Michael Kinzler, 209 Lippincott Avenue**, who reviewed the Borough's 2002 Audit report, directed numerous questions concerning the budget to our auditor, who responded to Mr. Kinzler.

There being no definitive decision reached by the Council regarding the 2004 municipal budget, it was decided that the budget be discussed once again at Council's April 7<sup>th</sup> work session. The Auditor will be present at that meeting.

**RESOLUTION 35-04**

**A RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES PER SECTION 8 OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT C.231 P.L. 1975  
(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

The above resolution was read by title only by Mr. Cesaretti, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Smyth. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye,

Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore absent, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. It should be noted that a personnel matter will be discussed

At this time Mr. Smyth, moved that we return to public session. This was seconded by Mrs. Villari. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore absent, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffat aye.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Smyth moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Mrs. Villari, with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mary Longbottom, RMC  
Municipal Clerk