

**MINUTES BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012**

Mayor Cope called the special meeting of the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:30 p.m. Present at meeting were: Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, Commissioner T. Richard Bethea and Commissioner Gary Smith. Also present Township Clerk Amanda Somes. Members of the public were present.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cope led the flag salute and read the sunshine statement.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE 2012-04

**CALENDAR YEAR 2012
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Mayor Cope introduced Ordinance 2012-04 upon first reading by title only. The motion was made by Commissioner Bethea, seconded by Commissioner Smith to introduce Ordinance 2012-01 upon first reading by title with public hearing and adoption scheduled for the April meeting. Votes. Cope-Yes, Bethea-Yes, Smith-Yes. Ordinances 2012-04 was hereby approved upon first reading by title only.

**ORDINANCE 2012-04
CALENDAR YEAR 2012
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 Board of Commissioners of the Township of Bass River in the County of Burlington finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2012 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 Board of Commissioners hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 10,064.66 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners 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 Board of Commissioners of the Township of Bass River, in the County of Burlington, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2012 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Bass River shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 1%, amounting to \$ 10,064.66, and that the CY 2012 municipal budget for the Township of Bass River 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.*

RESOLUTION 2012-37

A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the resurfacing of Jericho Road pursuant to
NJSA 40A:11-1

The motion was made by Commissioner Bethea, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution 2012-37. Votes: Cope–Yes, Bethea -Yes, Smith-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2012-37 was hereby approved.

*Bass River Township Resolution 2012-37
A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the resurfacing of Jericho Road pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-1*

WHEREAS, sealed public bids for the resurfacing of the Jericho Road project were received by the Bass River Township Municipal Clerk on March 2, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, Mr. Kris Kluk, has reviewed the bid documents and prepared a bid summary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Commissioners have reviewed the recommendations made by the Township Engineer and Solicitor on said bids; and

*WHEREAS, Gerald A. Barrett, LLC was the lowest qualified bidder submitting a conforming bid;
and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners hereby awards the contract for the resurfacing of the Jericho Road in the Township of Bass River County of Burlington to Gerald A. Barrett, LLC whose bid amounted to \$ 45,887.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of Bass River Township be and is hereby directed to sign for and on its behalf the contract in the prescribed form for said resurfacing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of this body be and is hereby directed to seal said contract with the corporate seal of this body and to attest to the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

2012 Municipal Budget: Resolution 2012-38

Commissioner Bethea made the motion to introduce the 2012 Municipal Budget by Title with public hearing scheduled for April 16th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Votes: Cope-Yes, Bethea-Yes, Smith-Yes. All in favor and 2012 Municipal Budget was hereby introduced by Title.

**2012 Municipal Budget
of the Township of Bass River,
County of Burlington for the
Fiscal year 2012**

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2012	2011
1. Surplus	495,000.00	660,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	511,000.00	840,154.93
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	125,000.00	125,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	110,000.00	82,060.00
b) Addition to Local district School Tax	-	-
Total Amt. to be raised by Taxes for Sup. of Muni. Bud.	110,000.00	82,060.00
Total General Revenues	1,241,000.00	1,707,214.93

Summary of Appropriations	2012	Final 2011 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	386,950.00	391,660.00
Other Expenses	658,155.38	796,429.93
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	6,294.62	5,000.00
3. Capital Improvements	10,000.00	210,000.00
4. Debt Service	9,600.00	89,125.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	170,000.00	215,000.00
Total General Appropriations	1,241,000.00	1,707,214.93
Total Number of Employees	20	20

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Borough Council of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington on March 19, 2012.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building, on April 16, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock P.M. at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2012 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

Copies of the Budget are available in the office of the Municipal Clerk at the Municipal Building, 3 North Maple Ave, New Gretna, N.J., (609) 296-3337 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The meeting was open for public comments upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bethea. All in favor and meeting was open for public comment at 7:53 p.m.

Rita Bourguignon: I've noticed several times now a big rig parked out here at the Old New Gretna House Property. He's going to go through...there are 3 septic out there. Mayor Cope: He's the guy that's down South Maple Avenue that's been having all the issues down there. Commissioner Smith: No it's a different trailer. I think it's got something to do with the construction. Rita Bourguignon: They're sleeping out here. They are parked out here sleeping. Some body's going to go through a septic system. It's going to be big trouble. Henry Bourguignon: Are they still there...the septic. Commissioner Smith: Yes, there are two next to the building and there is another one over here. Rita Bourguignon: There is one out in the middle of the parking lot. Commissioner Smith: Yes, there is one still there. It's private property. If the guy backs threw, he's the one who's going to be in trouble. Rita Bourguignon: Somebody should put some signs up there about no parking before it happens. It's ok if the back end goes in; but what if the cab goes in? Somebody's going to get hurt. Commissioner Smith: I don't think those tanks are that big? They are mostly just holes over there. It's private property. I don't know if we can make him put no parking signs on a piece of ground. You can see the tire tracks almost up to the building. I've seen a truck there for more than a day at one time. Rita Bourguignon: Last 3 or 4 days I've gone past it's been different rigging. Today I swear he was asleep in the cab. Commissioner Smith: I don't know if they stage there and wait to go get stuff. Because where do you put these rigs in town. If your waiting to go get a load down there. Or they're waiting for him to come pick something up from where they're hauling stuff for the parkway. They may be staging there once in a while until they're called to go to the job. If he backs threw somebody's septic; he's going to end up replacing the guys septic. Because you're not allowed to back big rigs like that into other people's property. It's not something you're supposed to do. Rita Bourguignon: Today's rig had some kind of bulldozer or something on the back. Commissioner Smith: The guy talked about fencing it off a couple of times, but he never did it. Rita Bourguignon: I'm just concerned over anyone falling in the septic system that's all. Commissioner Smith: That truck will go down. The tires will go through but it's not going to disappear or anything. Rita Bourguignon: That hole is a big hole. That was dug out 3 or 4 different times and each time it got bigger. That's a big

one in the parking lot. I think you will lose a cab in it. Commissioner Smith: I don't think its deep enough. Rita Bourguignon: I think it is because Louie used to get Dave's Septic. Lou used to get 3 trucks loads out of that one septic.

Carol Bitzberger: Did you say the budget was going to be put out over the Internet? Commissioner Bethea: Yes. We will get a PDF file out there for people to look at. If they have any questions, they can bring it up at the hearing. Mandy will also have a copy at the building. It has to stay at the building but she will have a copy. Carol Bitzberger: Just another quick question. The meeting minutes. I saw meeting minutes for January 9th. Do minutes get put out every month? Commissioner Bethea: As soon as they are approved. Mayor Cope: I believe the February one we had to do in April. Because the meeting was so long. Clerk Somes: They will be ready for April.

Henry Bourguignon: Henry, Nancy and Eddie were with me at the Environmental Commission meeting. Not really. They didn't use last names. Mayor Cope: Yes, they are going to be changing that.

Rita Bourguignon: We know there are going to be at least 2 new people up there. Prior to their taking over, are they asked to join with you 3 and go through whatever proceedings are asked to be done? Like he has roads, you've got the treasurer. Commissioner Smith: You're thrown to the wolves. Mayor Cope: In the past we always had the new person come in. Since I've been here it's always been basically one new person coming in. This time it will be 2 new people coming in. Could be 3. Rita Bourguignon: Seriously speaking, if all 3 go and 3 new ones come at a total loss of what's been done prior to your leaving. So, therefore, I would think that the 3 of you would get together with those new ones. Commissioner Smith: For myself, I can't speak about everyone. If there were questions that if somebody took over public works, and I've done public works over the past 4 years. If they had questions, I would certainly help and do whatever I could. Rita Bourguignon: That's true. But sometimes it difficult for a person to come to another person and say I need help. Commissioner Bethea: People who throw rocks could ask us for help, if they really need help. I won't throw a rock back. Cause I have to pay taxes here too. It's worked out ok for people to call up and ask questions to somebody's who's gone. Mayor Cope: The first time in I had the court, fire department, police department and all that. I would ask Jean questions. I would call her up and ask her questions. The second round I took over public works. So I would call Woody for any type of questions because there were different things. So I reached out to them and this time around I had court again. I've never had finance. If I was chosen to get back in and I had that department, I would reach out to Rich. Because whoever gets the finance department, it's tough. They are all different challenges in each department. But the finance department is tough and he lives and breathes it. He has for 36 years. Rita Bourguignon: You said he was good at getting grants too. So whoever takes up that position has got to be able to figure out how to apply for grants. Commissioner Bethea: You get a lot of help there too from the engineer. We tried a third party grant writer on a couple of grants. What I found were grant writers are great in bigger towns looking for bigger bucks. Because they have bigger populations. When they come to a very small town, they have trouble scaling it back. Because they get paid based on the size of the grant

they're applying for. So you get these projects its like, what are you thinking? I could do it in half that amount of money. They have the expertise to massage the wording because they're looking for certain words. Sometimes a lot of things we haven't gotten. Gary could remember the one that it really used to burn me was that safe streets to schools. They came down here and said how dangerous it was for the kids and took the walk. Gary took the walk with them. We applied for that twice, I believe. We didn't get it. The reason we didn't get it is cause we don't have enough kids walking on Route 9. Same thing with the bicycle trails. We are in a remote area. You've got to show how many people are going to take advantage of it. You've got to show some proof that you're going to have X number of bodies actually utilizing it. Their cost affective is per capita for giving you the grant just doesn't work. I don't care what grant writer you get. They are all the same. It's tuff. So you try to take old stuff and massage it between the engineer and the people you have up here and put it together and you submit it. I hate being cynical, but when you're around government 36-40 years or so; it's real easy because you see a lot of things that don't make sense. That we should have been more deserving. Fire Company didn't get their fire fighter grant this year. I didn't get it on the squad either. I applied for them both. Mayor Cope: You know we didn't get that this year. It's because we didn't check a box. Is what we were told. One box wasn't checked and that's why we didn't get it. Commissioner Smith: They want to touch as many voters as they can touch with the money. It's got nothing to do with anything else. Commissioner Bethea: The squad put in for an ambulance. You've got 4 areas. You've got a huge response area. You're doing state parks. You're doing state police. You're doing state forest people. All these other people that you're doing. That's a tremendous amount of area. I even had statistics that Mandy was able to get me for how much traffic was on the parkway...the volume. Broken down by buses, cars...everything. We're going to get this grant. Cause this year was the year they said EMS was going to get a better chance. I had a guy that used to review them. The same guy Joey had help him with the fire fighter side. I had a guy that used to be on the review team to review grants that were submitted. He was very, very helpful. Gave us a lot of good pointers. Read through our stuff and said you got to do this and you should do that. We did all that stuff and you feel really good about it when you get it all together. It's thick! Then we get past the first round or second round, which is the narrative. They liked the narrative. But when you get into the nitty gritty of giving the money out....we didn't get it. If you do one of those every year, which you can, it's a tremendous amount of time that goes into that. It's tuff. Mayor Cope: We just sat down with Steve King in the middle of February, Kathleen and I sat down and Joey and Tom. We went through everything and what happened last year is there is only 3 people in Emergency Management in Burlington County now. They have hired out and they have a company that approves you and what you need to do. Everything is done by the book. They didn't send it in the right way. There was some miscommunication between OEM and the fire companies so they didn't get it in the way they should have gotten it in. They did a beautiful exercise. They got commended for the exercise. But they didn't get any money for doing the exercise. So this year we said ok what do we need to do? They are going to do the exercise again over at Viking. How are we going to do it? There is \$300,000 out there. We started everything and he said first you have to finish the report from last years' to finish it out. So we did. We thought if we got it in we'd be able to get a little bit of money. The cameras were a

big thing that they needed over there. They need a thermo-camera. We thought it was around \$2500. Nat Alexander came down and it was around \$7500. We still felt that maybe we had a chance if we got this report in. We worked and got it done and we were all excited. Steve comes in and said you're not going to believe this. You had to have that in by March 1st. He felt bad. There was nothing we could do. We still had to finish it. We finished it. We sat down at another meeting we have to email; it's called e-teams. It's this whole document. We are all in here 2 weeks ago. It was the night the transformer went out. They came in and said the electric's going to go off. The electric went off. When the electric went off, we lost everything that we did and had to start all over. When we started over again, we submitted each page every time we did it. Finally got that in. The next step is we have to do the action report. First we have to get approval from this email on these incident action reports then we can go into tabletops. But we have to have this. It's funny because now we have a certain amount of time where it was supposed to be done in October. Now it has to be done before September in order to get that money. So now we go into next year. So it's like a game. It's a dating game of when you've got to get these grants in and you have to play the game of the step by step in order to get to the end results. Rita Bourguignon: This is all Emergency Management. Mayor Cope: Yes. Rita Bourguignon: She's got to have enough sense to go to Bill Gates from Tabernacle. They get grant on top of grant. I'm not kidding you. You should see their firehouse. It's unbelievable what they've got in that fire company. It's immaculate and it's just wonderful to walk in it. Most of it he said was done through grants. Go to him...find out how he gets it. Commissioner Smith: Tabernacle is a bigger town than we are. Their houses are a lot bigger than ours too. There's more people there than you think. There's a lot of new developments.

Being no further comments the motion to close the public portion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bethea. All in favor and public comment was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Being no further business to come before the Board the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bethea. All in favor and meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Amanda S. Somes, RMC
Township Clerk

Deborah Buzby-Cope, Mayor