

**TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD
MONTHLY WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 15, 2005**

The regularly scheduled workshop meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Oxford was held on March 15, 2005 in the Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Mayor Laszorisak who announced that the meeting had been properly advertised in compliance with the OPMA of 1975.

In attendance were Alex Lazorisak, Phil Rosenberg, Angelo Accetturo and Lt. Charles Lilly.

Mayor Lazorisak announced that this meeting is to discuss the Oxford Police Department and to get input from the Township residents about this situation. He stated that the Township is not disbanding the police department or calling in the New Jersey State Police to patrol Oxford. In May 2005, the Police Department will be losing two police officers which the Committee is working with Lt. Lilly to find replacements.

Lt. Thomas Cicerelle of the Washington Township Police Department explained that there would be twenty-four hour coverage with one police officer on duty at all times in Oxford and one supervisor floating between Townships. The pros of having a shared police department would be a canine unit, child ID and bike safety programs. The police department will be stationed in a new building on Route 31. If there are any questions or concerns, Lt. Cicero will be available to answer any concerns.

The Mayor opened the floor to any public comment.

Deborah Docker: "I am opposed to the merger and feel that the police are a big part of our community. The children in town look up to the officers and I don't want my child asking who the policeman is this year?"

Cindy Rochman: "Would it be feasible to have five or six officers on the police department which would eliminate overtime?"

Mr. Rosenberg: "The Committee's goal is to maintain a four man department and will start interviewing within two weeks. Also, we are looking into hiring a fifth part-time patrolman, which at this time is hard to find."

Jim Berman: "For my business, I would like to know if you are replacing the officers with a seasoned officer or one out of the academy."

Peg Hissim: "When my dad was chief, nine years ago there were five officers on the police department. Today we have more people living in Oxford with Cambridge East

and Spring Meadows. On our fire calls and emergency calls, we need the assistance of a police officer.”

Mark Franco: “How many officers are you interviewing and how many officers are you replacing?”

Mayor Lazorisak and Mr. Rosenberg: “We are advertising in the newspaper for these open positions and the Committee will be reorganizing the Department and replacing these jobs as soon as possible. The Township is receiving assistance from the State Police at no charge and mutual aid from surrounding townships, Oxford Township will always be covered by police protection.”

John Paul Reese: “What is the lapse in time before officers are hired and the exact coverage Oxford has until this replacement takes place? I would like to see growth in the Police Department.”

Shawn Spinks: “The problem with the Police Department is the officers feel that there is no advancement available to them in Oxford without a Police Chief’s position.”

Sandy Spinks: How much is it going to cost the town to have State Police Coverage until new officers are hired? Is there a time frame that Oxford Township has to replace these patrolmen? Also, does the Committee get an 18% raise this year in salaries and full health care coverage? The cost that the residents are paying in taxes for these expenses could factor into the cost for police.”

Joe Parken: Have you looked into federal grants to pay for police salaries and equipment?”

Mayor Lazorisak: “We are not getting an 18% increase in pay and if you calculated all the hours that this Committee works on Township business, it cost the town about three to four dollars a day. We have applied for state and federal grants in the past and are always looking into applying for additional funding but some of these programs and grants are not available at this time.”

Eric Keller: “The Committee should look into Washington Township Police Department for temporary coverage instead of the State Police because the township police have equipment in their vehicles that State Police do not have.”

Michelle Quigley: “There would be a financial impact on the Township in the future to bring back the Oxford Police Department if we join with Washington Township.”

Duane Quigley: “When will we know the Committee’s decision?”

Mayor Lazorisak: “We have heard your outcry tonight and understand your position on this matter; we have to go through contracts with police and are trying to keep your tax base where it is now. We would like to get to four officers by the end of the year-

hopefully sooner and are interviewing candidates now. We would like to keep force and rebuild.”

Samir Elbassiouny: “I think the merger is the best way to go, it provides Oxford Township twenty-four hour police coverage, seven days a week.”

Sandy Spinks: “Which is cheaper for the Township, a new cadet from the academy or a regular officer?”

Lt. Charles Lilly: “An academy trained officer would be cheaper but the officer is usually sponsored by a township which hires him after his graduation. There is no one available at this time because classes do not start until July, 2005.

Mayor Lazorisak declared the public meeting closed at 8:55 PM. There was a short Intermission.

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 PM by Mayor Lazorisak.

On motion by Mayor Lazorisak, seconded by Mr., Rosenberg and passed unanimously on roll call vote, The Oxford Township Senior Girl Scout Troop 453 was given permission to use the Oxford Furnace Lake for their third annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on Friday, April 15, 2005 at 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

On motion by Mayor Lazorisak, seconded by Mr. Accetturo and passed unanimously on roll call vote,

Resolution 2005-16-Cancel General Capital Ordinance Balance on Municipal Building.

Resolution 2005-17-Cancel General Capital Ordinance Balance on Jensen Drive Improvements.

Resolution 2005-18-Cancel State Grant Balances was adopted as read.

On motion by Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mayor Lazorisak and passed unanimously on roll call vote, **Resolution 2005-21-Transfer of 2004 Budget Appropriations** was adopted.

On motion by Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mayor Lazorisak and passed unanimously on roll call vote, **Ordinance 2005-05-Establishing fees for Vital Records** was adopted.

On motion by Mayor Lazorisak, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and passed unanimously on roll call vote, Sheila L. Oberly was appointed Certified Local Registrar.

Bill Colantano, Certified Municipal Auditor discussed the budget with the Committee and went line by line on each budget item.

Resolution 2005-23, Resolution 2005-24, Resolution 2005-25 and Resolution 2005-26, pertaining to the 2005 budget was adopted on motion by Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mayor Lazorisak and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

The Township Committee introduced the 2005 Budget on motion by Mayor Lazorisak, seconded by Mr. Accetturo and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM on motion by Mayor Lazorisak, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg, and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

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Sheila L. Oberly
Acting Clerk