

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

HELD MARCH 30, 1981

Chairman Taricani called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. in the College Township Municipal Building.

Members present: Donald E. Bailey, Gale L. Dargitz,
Herbert W. Stewart, and Dolores A. Taricani

Members absent: J. Carroll Dean

Others present: Manager Elwood G. Williams, Sr.

1. Chairman Taricani indicated that the first portion of the meeting would be a public hearing to consider the Amended 1981 Budget for College Township. All proper legal notices and advertisements had been made. It was indicated that all testimony would be sworn testimony except for questions of clarification. There was no objection to the proceedings being recorded.

There were no witnesses and Council had no questions on the amended budget. Mr. Bailey moved that Council adopt the amended 1981 Budget for \$621,996.74. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The public hearing was closed at 4:18 p.m.

2. Request Traffic Count at Hill's Plaza. Chairman Taricani indicated Mr. John Anthony of the Centre Regional Planning Commission had spoken with her and asked that Council request a traffic count at the entrance to Hill's Plaza to determine if traffic flow warrants the installation of a traffic signal at that point. Council briefly discussed the advantages of a traffic signal and the location of such a signal. Mr. Williams pointed out that Hill's would pay for the light and no Township money would be involved. Council was in agreement that a letter should be sent to PennDOT requesting this traffic count at the main entrance to the Hill's entrance. Chairman Taricani asked Mr. Williams to send the letter.

Chairman Taricani indicated that the divider island at the entrance to Rolling Ridge Drive presented problems when making left turns off Route 322 into Rolling Ridge Drive. She asked Mr. Williams to work with the Township Engineer and look into this problem.

Chairman Taricani indicated she had received comments indicating that the shopping center at Hill's was opposed to the bikeway and had asked Mr. Williams to follow up on this matter. Chairman Taricani reported that Mr. Williams had spoken with Mr. Vita from Galesi who indicated they were not opposed to the bikeway and at the present time were working on some legal matters involving utility easements in the area fronting the shopping center designated for the bikeway.

3. Payments for COG Programs. Mr. Bailey reported that the cash flow problems of COG had come before the Finance Committee and a study of the municipal payments for COG programs had been made. Council reviewed this information on the municipal payments in the March 19, 1981, memorandum from Tom Kurtz.

Chairman Taricani asked what the established payment procedure was. Mr. Williams indicated that there was none; a suggestion had been made at the June 1980 General Forum that "municipalities should try to pay within 30 days of the billing date" but no action had been taken on that suggestion. Council agreed that no change needed to be made in the Township's payment schedule to COG until the General Forum had established a payment procedure. Mr. Bailey indicated the matter would be coming up at the next General Forum and that he had presented this information to keep Council informed.

4. Chairman Taricani circulated to Council members copies of an analysis of costs and expenses she had prepared for the tax collection operations of the Township. She also provided a copy of the analysis to the Centre Daily Times reporter present. Chairman Taricani indicated she in no way meant this as a comment on other tax collection systems or compensations but felt it was

important that the constituents in the Township have a true picture of the costs and expenses associated with collection of taxes in the Township.

Council briefly discussed the collection of County taxes and the fact that the Township receives less now for collection of these taxes than it did several years ago and that it receives less per parcel now than the elected tax collectors receive.

5. COG Budget. Mr. Dargitz expressed his concern about the 10-12% increase that has been occurring each year in the COG budget and about the COG budget process in that the municipalities don't have the opportunity for input until after the COG officials and department heads have already put together the budget. He suggested that Council alter this budget process by making it known to COG in advance the kind and level of expenditures Council feels are appropriate for College Township. Mr. Dargitz distributed a letter he had drafted to Ms. Esther Leadley, Chairman Finance Committee, COG, on these concerns.

Mr. Stewart was concerned that the letter did not give the Township the option to drop out of or decrease participation in any of the COG programs. Mr. Dargitz indicated that his concern was that the total bill for the Township not exceed a 5% increase over last year's bill, that adjustments in specific programs could be made within the budget. Chairman Taricani also indicated that Council's work program includes an in-depth study of COG programs as related to the Township needs.

Council was in agreement that the letter expressed their concerns and that it should be sent.

Chairman Taricani asked Mr. Williams to have the letter prepared and sent.

6. CATA Increase. Mr. Bailey indicated that a public hearing on the CATA budget was to be held March 30 and then the budget

presented to the COG Finance Committee on April 2 with the Finance Committee studying it and providing comments thereafter. Mr. Bailey asked if the Council had any concerns they wanted pointed out.

Mr. Dargitz said he was concerned about the overall increase and also would like to see in writing the factors and method used to arrive at the various shares paid by the municipalities. Chairman Taricani and Mr. Stewart also shared Mr. Dargitz's concerns as did Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey also was concerned about the inclusion of the cab service in the CATA budget information. Mr. Dargitz indicated this was probably due to the Federal requirement that a percentage of the budget be used to provide service for handicapped and elderly. The contribution to the cab service which is available for transporting handicapped individuals would be less expensive than would specially equipped buses for transporting the handicapped.

Mr. Bailey indicated he would take Council's concerns on the CATA budget to the Finance Committee.

Chairman Taricani asked if Council had any objection to a thank you letter being sent to Mr. Oversier for his cooperation and good judgement in getting bus service to Mt. Nittany Residences. Council had no objection. Chairman Taricani asked Mrs. Houser to send a thank you letter to Mr. Oversier.

7. Mr. Williams indicated that the updated information on the gypsy moth spraying program indicated a total of 26 acres are to be sprayed in College Township. The Township's contribution to this will be \$82.94, 36% less than initially indicated.

8. Mr. Williams reported that the draft deed for the ConRail property had been received. Mr. McCormick has reviewed it and suggested that on the first page "municipal corporation" be changed to "Township." The draft deed has been returned to ConRail.

Mr. Dargitz asked if ConRail will finance the purchase of the land. Mr. Williams indicated he did not think so.

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Chairman Taricani asked Mr. Williams to explore this with ConRail asking what kind of payment schedule they would like.

9. Council discussed a questionnaire on computer services and needs that had been attached to a letter from Tom Kurtz. Chairman Taricani asked Mr. Williams to give the questionnaire to Mr. Hayden for his evaluation and completion. A copy of the completed questionnaire is to be given to Mr. Bailey.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bailey moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwood G. Williams, Sr.
Secretary

EGW:lf