

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
APRIL 7, 2025

The Budget Workshop of the Moorestown Township Council was called to order by Mayor Law at Town Hall, Council Chamber, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown at 6:07 p.m. Attendance was as follows:

Quinton Law, Mayor
Sue Mammarella, Deputy Mayor
James Barry, Councilmember
Nicole Gillespie, Councilmember
Christopher Keating, Councilmember

Kevin E. Aberant, Manager
Robert Nehila, Director of Finance/CFO
Vicki M. Gough, Deputy Township Clerk

Mayor Law read the Open Public Meetings Act statement, as written on the agenda, aloud.

The Budget Worksession began with a moment of silence and flag salute.

DISCUSSION ON 2025 BUDGET:

Mr. Aberant stated that this is a workshop. The budget book will be posted in the lobby for the public to view. Mr. Aberant stated that the proposed 2025 Municipal Budget is \$30,182,350 which reflects a \$1,974,564 increase in appropriations as compared to the 2024 adopted Municipal Budget. The amount to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes is \$16,575,797 which is \$783,335 more than in the 2024 adopted Municipal Budget. The municipal purpose tax rate is 39.8 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation, an increase of 1.4 cents over the 2024 rate of 38.4 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. Based upon this rate, the average assessed home of \$465,125 will pay \$1,849.86 in 2025 local purpose property taxes, which is an increase of \$68.10 as compared to last year.

Mr. Nehila stated that no formal action will be taken tonight. He stated that they are going to try to introduce the Budget at the April 28th Council meeting and adopt the budget at the June 2nd Council meeting. He gave an overview of the budget. He showed where the Township stood over the last 5 years. Mr. Nehila gave an explanation on why there is a proposed tax increase. He stated that the budget drivers are salaries, health insurance, prescription insurance, sanitation, library and debt service. 1 cent is equal to \$416,779 in a budget. Mr. Nehila went over the caps imposed on the municipalities. He spoke about the revenue section of the budget and how much of the surplus is being used. He did not include any grants that will be received in the budget yet. Mr. Nehila also gave a summary of the appropriations.

Ms. Gillespie asked about the debt service. Mr. Aberant answered her question.

Mr. Nehila went over the distribution of the tax dollar and the sources of anticipated revenue.

Ms. Gillespie asked about what had to be kept in surplus. Mr. Nehila stated \$5 million. He added after using some of the surplus this year, we will be left with \$6.7 million.

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Mr. Nehila stated that our tax collection is 99.32 percent.

Ms. Gillespie had questions on tax collection and surplus. Mr. Nehila gave a brief explanation.

Mr. Nehila explained the local purpose tax and water and sewer budget.

Mayor Law had questions on the deficit in the connection fees. Mr. Aberant gave a brief explanation.

Ms. Gillespie questioned the increase in water rates. Mr. Aberant said that is because we had a drought. We had to pump more water.

Mr. Nehila went over the open space fund. He added there is no increase in the rate.

Ms. Gillespie asked what the balance is of the open space trust fund and Mr. Nehila stated that it is \$3,557,181.39.

Ms. Gillespie asked questions on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the balance. Mr. Aberant gave an explanation.

Mr. Nehila went over the capital budget improvements.

Mr. Barry asked about the increase in funding for special law enforcement officers. Mr. Nehila stated that we did not budget enough last year. Mr. Aberant gave an additional explanation.

Mr. Barry had questions on the utility budget increase. Mr. Aberant stated that there was a planned replacement of servers at the water treatment complexes and gave a brief explanation on the WRT system.

Mr. Law asked about the budget impact summary. He asked if it was a decrease. Mr. Aberant explained.

Deputy Mayor Mammarella asked if the street lighting costs were going up due to rates increasing. Mr. Aberant stated yes.

Mr. Law said that PSE&G has programs that can help businesses with lowering their costs. Mr. Aberant stated that we participated in some of the programs already at some of the buildings.

Mr. Keating had questions on the funding of an additional officer. Mr. Aberant answered his question. Much discussion was held on the hiring of officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Law opened the meeting to the public. None.

Mayor Law asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

MOTIONED BY: Mr. Barry
SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Mammarella
ABSENT: None

VOTE: All in favor

Mr. Aberant stated Mr. Nehila will be holding more budget worksessions.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Mr. Barry stated that he appreciates the thorough budget.

Mr. Keating thanked Mr. Nehila and Mr. Aberant for their time on the budget.

Ms. Gillespie said thank you.

Deputy Mayor Mammarella said thank you and she will set up a meeting with Mr. Nehila.

Mayor Law thanked Mr. Nehila and Mr. Aberant for their hard work. He stated that the police department is the biggest portion of the budget. He thanked the Police Department for their service to the community and hope that the contract negotiations can go smoothly. Mayor Law has dates Council agreed upon for more budget workshops which will be held virtually so that they can spend more time talking about it. He will get the dates and times to Mr. Nehila.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:02 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

MOTIONED BY: Mr. Keating
SECONDED BY: Ms. Gillespie
VOTE: All in favor

VICKI M. GOUGH
Deputy Township Clerk