

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING – February 27, 2025**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mueller, Deputy Mayor V. Panico and Mr. J. Huelsebusch

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Acting Municipal Clerk A. Lehberger, Attorney A. Fisher (*left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.*)

ABSENT: Mr. J. Albanese and Mr. J. Heller

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated</u> <u>When Discussion Will</u> <u>Be Disclosed to Public</u>
Health Benefits	Contract Negotiations.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee shall remain confidential

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A”.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Mueller led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to amend the executive session agenda to add *Contract Negotiations / Pulaski Road (Block 48 Lot 25) and Potential Litigation/Affordable Housing*, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations / Health Benefits

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Pulaski Road (Block 48 Lot 25)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the agreement for the property, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Potential Litigation/Affordable Housing

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- **Public Works**

Ron Christy, Director of Public Works, and Chris Szymanski, Public Works Supervisor were present to review the 2025 Department of Public Works Budget.

Mr. Christy discussed the individual line items for each of the divisions within the department, including Roads, Building and Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance, Parks Maintenance and Sewer Utility. He addressed an increase in the operating budget due to the large increases in the costs for materials, supplies, and vehicle parts. He highlighted the need to replace ageing vehicles and equipment and expand the workforce by four employees.

Mr. Christy spoke to the proposed capital requests for each of the divisions which include the following:

Building/Grounds - Cushetunk Dam Remediation, Three Bridges Library HVAC & Window Replacement, Historic Property Repairs, Replacement F-250 Truck, Salt Barn Repairs, Brine Application Unit and Double Wall Storage Tank

Park Maintenance – Ventrac Multi-Use Tractor and Repairs to the Pickell Park Pavillion

Road Equipment – 2 F-550 Trucks with Attachments, 2 F-250 Pickup Trucks with Plow and Street Sweeper

Vehicle Maintenance – Heavy Truck Lift, CNC Plasma Table and Service Vehicle

Sanitary Sewer – Skid Mounted Vacuum Pump

The Committee discussed the time required for maintenance of the recreation fields.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico at 9:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Ann Marie Lehberger, *RMC*
Acting Municipal Clerk