

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jay Wojcik called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the “Open Public Meeting Act” this is a Budget Work Session Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and as a courtesy posted on the Township website.

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Wojcik asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a moment of silence for troops that may be in action soon.

ROLL CALL

The following officials were present:

Mr. Abe Abuchowski
Ms. Beverly Koehler
Mr. Jay Wojcik
Mr. Tom McKee
Mr. Rich Webb

Also present were:

Ms. Lorraine England, Township CFO
Ms. Carolynn Budd, Township Clerk
18 Member of the Public

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only (limited to two minutes per speaker)

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to open Public Comment.

Motion to Open:	Ms. Koehler
Second:	Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes:	Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Public comment: 2025 budget, CAP, overall budget review.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to close Public Comment.

Motion to Close: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. McKee
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preparation of the 2026 Budget. Ms. Lorraine England, CFO, presented the draft 2026 Budget to the Township Committee. Ms. England advised by statute the CAP tax levy is 2% and CAP appropriations is 2% but it can be increased to 3.5% by Ordinance. Ms. England advised the draft 2026 budget is approximately \$400,000 over CAP, the budget gap from 2025 to 2026 is approximately \$896,000. Ms. England provided an overview of revenue and department budget requests. The Committee asked if the budget cannot fall under the CAP if there were any exemptions allowed. Ms. England advised that the Township can go to the Finance Board to request an exemption to exceed the CAP but she would have to review to confirm what are allowable exemptions. The next Budget Workshop Meeting is scheduled for 2/12.

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to two minutes per speaker)

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to open Public Comment.

Motion to Open: Mr. Webb
Second: Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Public comment: Tax liens, open space, appropriation CAP, insurance and salaries increase, reserve for uncollected taxes, Thank you Ms. England, Happy Birthday Ms. Koehler and Mr. McKee.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to close Public Comment.

Motion to Close: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to conduct, Mr. Wojcik made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carolynn Budd, RMC
Township Clerk

Jay Wojcik
Mayor

Date Approved