

1. The January 8, 2007 special budget meeting was called to order by Mayor Hodson at 6:35 p.m. in the Board of Health Building, 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, NJ.
2. Moment of silent reflection.
3. Pledge of allegiance to the flag of the USA.
4. Mayor Hodson announced this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq., special notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, the Daily Record, The Star-Ledger, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

In accordance with NJUFC, please note there is one exit that should be utilized in case of emergency or fire.

5. Roll call. Councilmembers present: John Armeno, Richard Bunce, Marie Ryder-Galate (arrived at 6:43 p.m.), Estelle Klein, Madeline McManus & Sylvia Petillo. Others present: Administrator Steven Ward & Clerk Lorraine Stark.
6. Meeting Open to Public for Comments, none was forthcoming.
7. 2007 Municipal Budget:

- a. 6:30 pm – Water and Sewer Utility – Rob Lawler & John Ruschke were present for this discussion. Mr. Ward provided an update for budget expenditures. Mayor Hodson questioned revenue numbers. Mr. Ward reported that those were not available until the end of February. Mr. Lawler explained that the State had required some expensive water analysis in 2006, which would not have to be done in 2007. Councilmember Ryder-Galate arrived at 6:43 p.m. Mr. Ruschke noted that this was a one-time event due to some incorrect information. It was revealed that postage was greatly underestimated in 2006, especially true for the sewer utility, adjustments being made in 2007. Publication of ordinances pertaining to the utilities could also be charged against the appropriate line item instead of coming from general. Maintenance of equipment and maintenance schedules were briefly discussed. Some increases were anticipated due to 3 additional wells coming on-line in 2007; Mr. Ruschke did not agree that these wells would be ready for production in 2007, reasons being capital expenditures that would have to be made & DEP permits required. Realistically it would be more like 2008. Mr. Ruschke addressed the importance of getting a handle on the unaccounted water, which is about 20% now, and a substantial water loss. Mr. Ruschke agreed that controlling the leaks would be equivalent to having a new producing well.

Capital items: painting of Ingram Tank, new building improvements and water main on the River Styx Bridge. Mr. Ruschke explained that there was costs involved for the exploration of the water main replacements and required DEP permits for that and the three wells. Mr. Ruschke apologized for having to attend another meeting and departed. The governing body thanked him. There was a brief discussion about the

County Bridge re-surfacing and the need to meet with County officials to iron out this issue. Mr. Lawler revealed other capital items in the 2007 Budget: excavator, water main replacement and pickup truck. Mr. Jobeless noted that an excavator would also assist the DPW. Mr. Lawler remarked that the pickup could be removed from the list. Councilman Armeno introduced the subject of shared services/equipment including Sussex County.

Sewer Utility – Mayor Hodson inquired as to how many calls were received for the sewer utility. Mr. Lawler responded quite a few, seems that electricians incorrectly installed the switches and his department had to fix those. He also noted that grease was a problem in the system. It was suggested that sewer users receive a list of what **not** to put into the system, since it was the Borough’s responsible to maintain these grinder pumps. Regarding 2007 requests: increase in postage, electricity and gasoline/fuel. Mayor Hodson questioned the \$33,000 increase being asked for by Mr. Lawler in 2007.

Capital items: Vactor machine, pay one-third of the excavator, building improvements and sewer camera. Those present thanked Mr. Lawler.

b. 7:30 pm – Department of Public Works – Ron Jobeless began with Buildings & Grounds; no increase was being requested in 2007. Mayor Hodson wants to look into the electrical usage for each building. Mr. Jobeless had no projects scheduled in 2007; improvements were made to the DPW Building this year.

DPW – Several items were increased due to the equipment getting older; repairs are costing more money because some of the parts have to be manufactured. It was noted that there was a potential to save money on salt in 2007. Recycling – Mayor Hodson inquired about refrigerants, and the possibility of scheduling a special day for residents to dispose of refrigerator solvent.

Park Maintenance – Councilman Armeno noted that supplies should come from Park Budget not DPW. Increase in contractual services; discussion about installing light timer at fields & tennis courts.

Capital – 5 trucks various sizes, loader, money to complete storage units, drainage work and road resurfacing, totaling \$865,000. Mr. Jobeless pointed out that a garbage truck was not on the list for 2007, but would be needed in 2008. In addition, Mr. Jobeless reported on the status of these old vehicles and the amount it costs each year to keep them operational; money would be better spent on new equipment. Ron informed those present that he would be putting together a road-paving list that would show projects through 2009. Regarding the loader, it was necessary to continue with the construction projects that the DPW performs to save money; the loader was a priority for his department along with the two plow trucks. The governing body thanked Mr. Jobeless.

Council President Petillo moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m., seconded by Klein. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted: