

The January 14, 2008 special budget meeting was called to order by Mayor Petillo at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Health Building, 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, NJ.

Mayor Petillo announced this meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 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.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present: Richard Bunce (arrived at 5:36 p.m.), Michael Francis, Estelle Klein, Madeline McManus & Robert Modick. Absent: Marie Galate. Others present: Temporary Administrator James Roberts and Clerk Lorraine Stark.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Meeting open to public for comments on items on the agenda for which no public discussion is provided. (Comments limited to 5 minutes). None was forthcoming.

BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE:

- Police Department – Police Chief John Swanson was present for this discussion. Chief Swanson explained the cost for trailer rental, which is used for equipment storage and office space. He was requested to obtain the amount necessary for a buy-out. Chief Swanson spoke about the other budget items, and recommended that two vehicles be purchased in 2008; only one car was purchased in 2007. The fleet consists of 13 vehicles currently. The governing body questioned if the cars could not be run continuously, attempting to preserve the motor. Chief Swanson noted that he was providing his best recommendation. Regarding the matter of physicals, the question was raised if this was something that the individual's health insurance could pay for. Chief Swanson commented that the police side arms would need to be replaced in 2011; the current guns are fine for now.
- OEM Budget – increases from \$4,000 to \$5,000 for generator upkeep; located at Firehouse #2 and Municipal Building.
- Communications – Chief Swanson revealed that he anticipated a savings in repairs. However, the contract amount has increased. Capital Improvements include upgrade to the Communications Center; obligated only \$50,000 of the \$150,000 needed to complete this project. Chief Swanson reported that some key equipment needed to be replaced, i.e. backup server that would now go into the dedicated server room, which has just been refurbished. Chief Swanson stated that they need to continue to

move ahead with the communications improvements, which costs approximately \$300,000. The governing body thanked Chief Swanson.

- Water Utility – Rob Lawler was present for this discussion. Mr. Roberts reported that he met with Mr. Lawler and made some changes to the budget. Several line items were reduced: 521, 523, 526, 529, 530 & 571. Items increased included: 536, 576, & 592. Mr. Roberts remarked that capital funds would require an increase because soft costs could not be rolled into the financing. Mr. Lawler had presented 10 items for consideration in the 2008 Capital Budget. Councilman Bunce questioned why the 2006 audit wasn't encumbered, and if three quotes were obtained. Regarding capital the excavation equipment and dump truck was removed. GIS system has potential to be used for other departments not just a water/sewer issues. Mr. Roberts pointed out the water debt service in 2008 is \$436,130.
- Sewer Utility – Increase in item 526 because of the number of grinder pumps that are no longer under warranty (two years from date manufactured); 900 total pumps in the system. Also increases in items: 527 & 530; decreases in 529 & 538. Capital discussion was about a vactor truck and what functions it would perform; Ms. McGann inquired about a lease/purchase and found that it would be cheaper for the Borough to do it themselves. Mr. Lawler reported that homeowner putting the wrong material into the sewer lines was damaging many pumps. The governing body wants to educate the public by clearly spelling out that they are responsible if they damage the equipment. Mr. Lawler was thanked for this presentation.
- Department of Public Works – Ron Jobeless informed those present that his employees performed more work this past year, and saved the taxpayers a considerable amount of money; included the rebuilding of several trucks and other equipment. He spoke about the additional cost of road paving and patching, along with the need for milling the roadways. Mr. Jobeless encouraged the governing body to continue with the installing of drainage; what is currently budgeted does not provide for a lot of inventory. He also noted that because the equipment was older more dollars would be required for maintenance/repairs.
- Buildings & Grounds – additional monies required for electricity.
- Parks & Recreation – Mr. Roberts explained that a bid could be solicited for a three year deal for park maintenance; could award it to a good contractor instead of having to bid it ever year. Mr. Jobeless spoke about purchasing clay early in the season, which required a small increase in the line.
- Recycling – It was noted that line 020 was reduced by \$3,500, and that there were improvements at the site that should be made.

- Solid Waste – brush grinding and leaf removal/disposal.
- Gasoline & Diesel/Heating Oil – these items required more funding in 2008.
- Capital Budget Discussion – Mr. Ruschke informed those present that there is three underground fuel tanks at the DPW. He is looking to get these removed and located above ground. This is not something that could be done in phases. It was reported that there were some issues or concerns about storm water runoff and soil contamination. Mr. Jobeless encouraged monies to be available for road paving in the amount of \$250,000; removal of underground tanks; and replacement of 1989 truck. Those present thanked Mr. Jobeless.

Council President Klein moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Bunce. Those present voted affirmative. Absent – Galate.

Respectfully submitted: