

1. The special January 22, 2007 budget meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Hodson 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. 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: Richard Bunce, Marie Ryder-Galate, Estelle Klein, Madeleine McManus & Sylvia Petillo. Absent – John Armeno. 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 – Health Department – Phil Morlock, Health Officer was present for this discussion. Mr. Morlock informed those present that revenue generated in 2006 was \$39,842, and that the 2007 Budget request was increased by only \$767. He attributed this increase to phone line charges/cell phone reimbursement and an increase in the Health Educator's rate increase. Some money was reallocated to different line items to better reflect where the money would be used. Mr. Morlock also noted that dollars for Hepatitis B injections was increased by \$500. He remarked that this was a very tight budget, and thanked the governing body for their support. Those present thanked Phil for his presentation.
 - b. 7:15 pm – Capital Budget Discussion (Cont.) Mr. Ward said that he would have a better idea of revenue numbers next week, and that the primary increase in 2007 was due to pension costs. In addition, the reserve for uncollected taxes was not known at this time. The anticipated impact in the budget was \$761,593 or 8 tax points. Mayor Hodson informed the governing body that the request for capital items was \$1,707,950; he was not recommending this number. Councilman Bunce remarked that there weren't monies appropriated for the continuation of the work at the Nariticong Parking area; this was something that they were going to continue to work on. Twenty thousand for the Nariticong Parking lot was added to the capital list. Councilperson Bunce also questioned if it wouldn't be better to use money to improve HAC ducts instead of windows that open. He would like to see the electronic door system for the firehouse, and thinks that we should look for a grant.

Water Utility – Mr. Ward remarked that currently there is a surplus of \$200,000 in the utility, and that the water rate would remain the same, no increase in 2007. He also spoke about the Prickle Point improvement project, and how the new customers on the system would fund this. We are waiting to get updated numbers for this project. Councilwoman McManus showed a diagram of a new communications center that Chief Swanson has proposed. Councilman Bunce inquired if there was any way the project could be done in stages. Councilwoman McManus commented that perhaps the structure improvements could be done at a later time. Councilmember Ryder-Galate asked about the ambulance squad vehicles and how many they currently had; Mr. Ward will retrieve this information. Council President Petillo expressed concern about the cleaning and maintenance of the police side of the building; she would like to see an improved schedule, and better attention given to this area. Mayor Hodson reported that the reserve for uncollected taxes would have to be increased if budgets were more in 2007, this includes the school budget; the only way to keep this stable is if the collection rate increases enough to off set the increases. There was a discussion about potential ideas on how to reduce the 2007 Budget including staffing and operational costs. Councilperson Bunce indicated that the renovations to Firehouse #3 really should be \$23,000 not \$20,000. Mayor Hodson requested that the governing body members rank capital items so that a number could be realized for the next discussion. Currently they were considering the following items: Utility Office Modifications, Upgrade of Communications Facility (one-half), Voice Logger, Portable Radios for Police, Firehouse #3 renovations, SUV for Fire Chief, Alarm system (partial), Metal Detection Device/Court Security, Road Resurfacing, 4X4 Snow Plow Truck, John Deer Loader, one Mason Dump Truck, Storage Unit supplement for DPW, and Naritcong Parking. Councilmember Klein said she would include the \$5,000 for the firehouse doors.

- c. 8:30 pm – Salary/Wage Discussion. It was noted that there was one outstanding salary issue to be resolved.

- 8. Councilwoman Klein moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Bunce. The vote was unanimous. Absent – Armeno.

Respectfully submitted: