

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:22 p.m.), Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: Council member Barry Honig

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin, Chief Financial Officer Gene Vinci

At 7:04 p.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are listed in the Annual Agenda; copies are sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center. The notice of this special budget meeting Resolution #13-70 has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley News, has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and Borough Website."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one came forward.

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Chair, Ms. Wilmit, advised Council that the Planning Board had to major cases last year involving the Hedvat application and Diasparra application. The Planning Board prevailed in the Hedvat case. The Planning Board attorney recommended \$31,000, but the Administrator and Chief Financial Officer recommended that \$25,000 be allocated for legal fees. Council concurred with the Administrator and Chief Financial Officer's recommendation.

Mrs. Thompson-Chin reported that the new Land Use and Housing Assistant, Deborah Dworkis started today. She is a licensed planner recommended by Mayor and Clerk of Harrington Park. Her extensive experience includes working for Meadowlands Commission and New York City. Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that she anticipates that Ms. Dworkis will be giving the Planning Board more expertise at the local level and can provide a more technical foundation. Ms. Dworkis knows the Borough Planner, Mr. Burgis and she will conduct additional research when coordinating with Mr. Burgis.

C. LaMastra inquired about the fees collected by the Planning Board. Mr. Vinci will provide the requested information.

LIBRARY

Library Director, Ms. Webb-Metz reported that most of budget is to maintain basic services. She advised that in 2013, a customer service workshop for staff will be held and that she is seeking on having a full complement of programming for adults and youth. The goal is to expand the teen literature events and to continue working with the school libraries. She noted that the anticipated salary increases for staff from negotiations is not factored in the proposed budget and the major increases to the budget is in health insurance and pension contributions. She is seeking to expand the Wi-Fi capability in the library, but is not seeking on purchasing any new computers.

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services Director, Mr. Slawson reviewed the budget proposal and indicated that the only increase was to attend the NJRPA Conference this March. This will be the first time he has ever attended the conference. The Administrator and Chief Financial Officer recommended that the request be granted and Council concurred. Mr. Slawson advised that the Teen Summer Camp had 129 participants and his goal is to have 200 participants this year. There will be advertising about the camp for greater outreach.

POLICE

Mrs. Thompson-Chin noted that most of the items in the Police operating expenses budget is basic and structured. Mr. Vinci notified Council that according to state statute, bond counsel has confirmed that passenger vehicles cannot be a capital item and that sport utility vehicles are no longer capital items either.

Chief Chamberlain described the status of the entire vehicle fleet and how patrol vehicles prematurely wear at 3 to 4 years. He explained the increase in costs with regards to engine, transmission, and brake replacements. Council authorized the purchase of 2 vehicles for the Police Department.

Chief Chamberlain addressed staffing in the department, which is down due to retirements, injuries, and officers in the academy and field training. There are currently active 28 officers. He requested that the table of organization be increased to 34, in which the extra person would be in the traffic division, especially for school safety. The next academy training session is in July and due to this schedule, this officer will not be fully integrated in the force until February 2014. He advised that this extra officer would improve overtime costs because people in special services would fill in with patrol. He requested authorization for filling the vacancies for captain and sergeant via vacancies. The scores from the last round of promotions will be kept, but there will be an interview process. Council authorized the hiring of 2 officers and to begin process for promotions. Chief Chamberlain noted that he has one candidate already for a patrol officer, but he needs to look at the current list to determine whether he has to restart the process.

Council requested that Chief Chamberlain look into installing cameras around the municipal complex and monitored at the police desk. Mr. Vinci commented that Council can use some funds from police headquarters expansion, but most of the cost would come from the capital improvement program.

With regards to the Emergency Management budget, C. Barzelatto requested additional funding for educational conferences and \$1000 for stipend for the deputy. Council concurred. He requested the ambulance's old first responder once they receive the new vehicle. There was a discussion regarding supplies for shelters and there is anticipation of receiving a grant for generators for the Senior Center and McCandless Room. Mayor Rustin recommended setting aside \$15,000 for shelters in case the Borough does not receive the grant. If the Borough receives the grant, then the funds can be used for cots and supplies.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Kerge, second by C. LaMastra, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk