

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig (arrived at 7:19 p.m.), Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None

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

At 7:02 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.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Official, Mr. Byrnes noted that the main request in the Building Department budget was for a salary increase, in which he is seeking that the code enforcement officer be moved back to full time for greater enforcement of property maintenance code and due to the greater responsibility imposed on this position from the revised tree ordinance. The current code enforcement officer is taking courses as an arborist. The code enforcement offer works 25 hours per week, which also includes court appearances from summonses issued. Due to the limited hours, he inspects based on complaints and is unable to be proactive. The Administrator and CFO recommended in the budget proposal that the hours be increased to 32 hours, not to the 35 hours for full time status.

C. LaMastra expressed the need for a rotating schedule to ensure weekend coverage or possible considering bringing a second person to just work weeks since coverage is needed when violations occur.

Council discussed incorporating Saturday inspections for the summer and fall. The consensus of the majority of Council was to grant full time status to the code enforcement officer effective May 1st.

Mr. Byrnes noted that he is seeking an increase in the training line item since the ICC Conference will be held in NJ this year.

SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director, Ms. Villafuerte presented her budget and requested an allocation for membership dues to the National Council on Aging in the other expense budget and for a panic button in the senior center in addition to the patio renovation from the capital budget. Council concurred with the requests, but directed that the DPW Director evaluate if the patio renovation can be done in house. C. LaMastra requested that Ms. Villafuerte research conferences that will provide information and resources to improve the courses offered. Ms. Villafuerte will evaluate if non-residents can be charged a higher fee since the senior center received federal funding. C. Kerge advised that non-residents can be charged a registration fee, but can be charged the same rate for courses as residents.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Official, Mr. Blackwell requested that the hours of the part time inspector be increased from 10 hours per week to 14 to address the backlog of non-hazard life uses inspections. After discussion on the amount of inspections staff has conducted over the year, Council

determined that Mr. Blackwell and the full time fire inspector need to increase the amount of their inspections and not increase the hours of the part time inspector.

Mr. Blackwell requested in his capital budget to replace the vehicle used for inspections either this year or within in the next couple of years. Mr. Vinci advised that passenger vehicles are not capital expenses. Council denied the request and decided to have the DPW mechanics look at the vehicle for any issues.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Philpott advised that he requested \$4500 for education and training; however, only \$3000 was recommended. Council determined to authorize \$4500 in education and training and increased the incentive program to \$118,000.

Fire Chief Philpott noted that in his capital budget request, he is seeking to replace a 40 year old rescue truck for mechanical and safety reasons and \$115,000 to upgrade the radio system for pagers and portable radios. Council determined to evaluate if grants were available for the purchase of the rescue truck and determined not to move forward with the radio system upgrade at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Kerge, second by C. Honig, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk