

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 8:48 p.m.), Maxim Basch, Nadia LaMastra (arrived at 8:24 p.m.), Daniel Park, Mark Zinna

ABSENT: Council member Paul Stefanowicz

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

At 7:13 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 by Resolution #15-48 has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press, 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 Chairperson Wilmit explained that the Hedvat application is still pending and an appeal is expected to be filed. She advised that while the amount budgeted for legal services and planning services is flat, the Planning Board and Borough needs to be prepared for unanticipated costs rather than go over budget.

Ms. Wilmit explained that while the courts have ordered COAH to come up with new rules, the rules have not been issued. Even though no municipality knows what will be proposed, there are basic elements that the Planning Board has been preparing. The last course of action was submitting the spending plan for approval in 2012. Then COAH was dissolved and subsequent lawsuits were filed. Planning Board member, Mr. Warms commented that the Borough has complied with all rules as they have existed in a timely manner. Ms. Wilmit stated that in anticipation of the new rules, the Planning Board is working on background material and continuing to follow prior rules until the new rules are set.

Discussion regarding the COAH trust involved clarification that the funds come from the development fees that are set by statute. The expenditures of COAH related charges involved the preparation of the Housing Element of the Master Plan and the payment of fees to Community Action Services as the Borough's housing agent for the rental of 3 units. Mayor Rustin noted that the Borough should consider looking for another non-profit organization to partner with for a project to obtain COAH credits.

NATURE CENTER

The Tenafly Nature Center Executive Director, Peter Punzi informed Council that the Board of Trustees held a strategic planning retreat. The Nature Center will be seeking grants for a Forest Stewardship Plan to preserve the biodiversity of the area and a Trail Master Plan to increase accessibility and usage of the trails. The total budget is \$420,000 and a request was made to reinstate the annual appropriation from \$30,000 to \$35,000. The balance of the budget is collected from memberships, donations from events, and education programs. Council determined to discuss the \$5000 increase with the full membership of Council. Mr. Vinci recommended that Council review the Nature Center's audit report before making any decisions. Mr. Punzi will forward the reports to Mr. Vinci.

PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Director, Mr. Culvert noted that his budget reflects a 0% increase in operating expenses, but the increases to salaries and wages are contractual. There is a part-time office assistant vacancy and he is currently reviewing internal submissions. Mr. Vinci described the steps in the salary guide and emphasized that the majority of the workers are at the top step.

In reviewing the department's goals and objectives, Mr. Culvert is seeking to initiate solar lighting project to light the municipal center lot. In reference to a request for a new compactor for the recycling center operations, Mr. Culvert explained the current switching from cardboard to transfer comingled material. By installing a new compactor at the rear of existing facility, it will allow to the trucks to dump material out quicker and more efficiently as it will also be construction grade.

Council authorized that the repointing of the mortar joints for \$30,000 be phased over 3 years, \$8000 for the façade by the Library, \$14,000 to stain and power wash the building at Davis-Johnson Park, and \$2,600 to repair the ambulance garage doors. The replacement of the 1990 top-kick dump truck will be part of the capital budget. C. Barzelatto recommended that the DPW should have a utility worker, who is a dedicated licensed professional that can do plumbing, carpentry repairs, and painting instead of going out to contract for these services.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The current capital budget request initially had \$240,000 for road resurfacing, but it was increased to \$300,000 in which \$50,000 will be provided from prior bond ordinances. Based on further review, the road resurfacing line was increased to \$351,000 to complete the Tenafly Road, Section 4 project with engineering costs and include the resurfacing of Hillside Avenue and Hickory Avenue. The total cost is \$550,000 but there is an NJDOT grant of \$149,000 to complete the Tenafly Road project and \$50,000 from a prior bond ordinance.

Council discussed the benefits of procuring a GIS system, which is an overlay map digital program. Borough officials will be able to access everything that happens in a piece of property, specifically for municipally owned infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Zinna , and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela,
MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk