

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:21 p.m.), Maxim Basch, Shama Haider, Daniel Park, Paul Stefanowicz (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), Mark Zinna (arrived at 8:11 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin,
Chief Financial Officer Susan Corrado

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 by Resolution #16-48 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, Mary Beth Wilmit, reviewed the Planning Board's budget request. She explained that while the board tries to avoid litigation expenses, funds need to be allocated for the Hedvat case as well as anything else that may arise. She noted that funds for planning services need to be accounted for, even though COAH requirements have taken up the time that would otherwise be used for general planning. The education and training line item covers the mandatory education requirements for members as well as continued COAH certification for the municipal land use liaison.

NATURE CENTER

Nature Center Executive Director, Peter Punzi stated that the Nature Center is requesting its annual allocation of \$35,000. He reported that the Nature Center is working on a forest stewardship plan. Grants and donations have been obtained to work on the plan for biodiversity, which will become part of overall master plan and lay the foundation for future funding. It is expected that the trail master plan will be completed this spring. Also, over the next couple of years, they will be reviewing upgrading the facility is part of the strategic plan.

PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Director Robert Culvert explained his request for an increase in seasonal and temporary employment line under salary and wages, but highlighted that operating expenses are being kept flat. With regards to a capital expense, he is seeking to purchase a van for Building Maintenance and its pick-up truck will be transferred to the Recreation Department for the site supervisor. The Recreation Department's current pick-up truck is not in suitable condition for its required use and would be auctioned.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that there had been \$4.2 million worth of capital projects requested; however, she and Mrs. Corrado are recommending \$2.9 million for projects. Grants and balances in prior bond ordinances reduce the expenditure to a net total of \$2.5 million. 5% of the down payment must be accounted for in the operating budget. The major expenses that were not recommended but may be considered in the 2017 capital budget include a fire truck, an ambulance, and re-turfing the municipal field. Council requested that the demolition of 5 South Summit Street be re-evaluated.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Basch , second by C. Zinna , and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela,
MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk