

# Borough of Tenafly

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:15), Barry Honig (arrived at 7:08 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  
Chief of Police Michael Bruno

At 7:03 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 News and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center. The notice of this special budget meeting via the February 1, 2012 Sunshine Notice has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley News and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center."

Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that there has been a schedule change for the February 21<sup>st</sup> Budget Meeting. She explained that Fire Prevention and Public Works have switched time slots as she, Bob Beutel, and C. Kerge need to attend a night visit to Huyler Park and the Tenafly Train Station with the Borough Engineer and the historic stakeholder group from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

#### **Public Comment:**

No one came forward.

#### **Police Budget Discussion:**

Gene Vinci, Chief Financial Officer, advised that he has distributed a new Police salary budget which includes the new hires and promotions. He noted that there is a \$2,000 difference from the original worksheet. Mayor Rustin pointed out that the operating budget is lower than 2011, 2010, and 2009.

As there is a request for two new vehicles in the operating budget and a four-wheel drive vehicle in the Capital budget, Council questioned why it is necessary to have so many police vehicles and discussed the cost to repair versus purchasing new vehicles. Chief Bruno explained the concept of fleet management and the issues that arise from being forced to keep older vehicles. He advised that the problems not only include major repairs such as replacing engines and transmissions, but safety issues for his officers. Mrs. Thompson-Chin confirmed that although it has not happened yet, keeping older vehicles could possibly subject the Borough to action from the PBA. C. Kerge asked Chief Bruno to provide a better understanding of why this number of vehicles is necessary. Chief Bruno explained that a police vehicle cannot run for twenty-four hours because the type of wear and tear to which it is subject. He also explained that different vehicles have different capabilities and uses. Chief Bruno noted that the new vehicles would be replacement vehicles and any vehicles no longer of use to the department would be auctioned.

Mr. Vinci advised that the Borough has received \$15,000 from the insurance company for the vehicle damaged at the Knickerbocker Country Club. Chief Bruno noted that aside from the automated license reader which was retrieved and is currently being evaluated to ensure that it is working properly, all the equipment inside of the vehicle was lost.

C. Honig requested that Council be provided with information on fleet management programs in other municipalities.

C. LaMastra expressed her belief that the fees collected for use of police vehicles in a street closure were to be set aside to purchase new vehicles. Mr. Vinci responded that these funds were most likely placed into miscellaneous revenue, but does not believe it is a significant amount of money. C. LaMastra suggested revisiting the fee. Mr. Vinci is to determine the amount of revenue that was collected last year for this purpose.

C. LaMastra questioned whether the police radios will need to be replaced. Chief Bruno responded that most police radios are already narrow-band compliant. He advised that there are six portable radios and one mobile that will need to be replaced and this purchase will come out of forfeiture funds.

There was discussion regarding the use of the Tenafly Rifle and Pistol Club. Chief Bruno explained that the Police Department pays the taxes for the club and in turn, they have full use of the range to complete their training and qualifications.

C. LaMastra pointed out that traffic signaling was over budget last year and questioned whether any changes or upgrades are anticipated. Chief Bruno responded that they have very archaic technology operating the traffic signals and explained that in order to upgrade, it would entail putting in the appropriate curb cuts and widening roads in order to become compliant; such changes may cause residents and business owners to lose some of their property. He commented that by making these changes and installing newer technology, a lot of the Borough's traffic problems would be solved. Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that Urbana and Sam Schwartz will be looking at these issues and funds will come out of the traffic circulation study. She explained that they will be devising a plan for all of the Borough's issues, but as there are not funds available for everything, there will be the need to prioritize. Council discussed concerns about how the Light Rail could affect measures taken to address the safety and traffic circulation issues in the downtown. Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that there are two separate plans, but Council should look at ways to protect itself from making an investment and having it undone by the Light Rail. C. Honig questioned whether any of the traffic signals can be made audible compliant. Chief Bruno responded that that possibility can be looked at once a plan has been put into place.

C. Honig advised that he had spoken to an expert in cyber and physical security and learned about the capabilities of smart cameras to help better secure the town. He advised that he received a cost estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000 to install these cameras throughout the town. Chief Bruno questioned that estimate, but responded that he would be willing to look further at this idea should the technology be reasonably priced. C. Honig is to provide Chief Bruno with names of companies who provide such cameras. Council also discussed having cameras installed in the area around the Library and Teen Center. Chief Bruno asked that the governing body discuss which points they would like the cameras to cover and advise him at the next Police Commission meeting so that he may obtain quotes.

### **Capital Budget**

Mr. Vinci advised that the Borough's total Capital request is \$1,200,000, requiring a down payment of \$60,000. This request is \$20,000 higher as compared to last year.

Chief Bruno reviewed the various items that are being requested under Capital which include six stalker radar units to replace old radar units that are still in use, six small gas generators and the appropriate wiring to power traffic signalization during power

outages, and the replacement of the traffic signal box, heads, and painting of the channelization to change the way the lanes run at the intersection of E. Clinton Avenue and Engle Street. C. Honig questioned whether this intersection can be made audible compliant. Chief Bruno responded that he will check with Andy Hipolit, the Borough Engineer, to see whether it is possible and inquire about the cost.

C. Honig requested that Council be provided with a report of what the net numbers are as vehicles are purchased and auctioned. Chief Bruno advised that the Borough does not recoup much from the vehicles being auctioned due to the type of wear and tear to which the vehicles are subject. He commented that most are purchased by taxicab companies.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Zinna, second by C. LaMastra, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC  
Borough Clerk