

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:31 p.m.), Barry Honig arrived at (7:17 p.m.), Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Financial Officer Gene Vinci

At 7:09 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."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one came forward.

BOROUGH CLERK

Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez highlighted the increase in the printing expenses in the election account due to the new mandate that ballots be Korean, as well as in English and Spanish. The Borough only pays for its portion of printing ballots for the primary election, which will also include County Committee this year. Council reviewed the Borough's Clerk's capital request to replace filing cabinets as part of a records management program. C. LaMastra inquired about the destruction of meetings. Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez responded that she follows the records retention as established by DARM of 80 days after approval of minutes since the CDs produced by the recording system are not playable in regular CD players. The audio recording remains in the hard drive of the new recording system. Council directed that the records retention of audio recordings be listed for a work session to obtain the opinion of the Borough Administrator and the legal opinion of the Borough Attorney.

ASSESSOR

Mrs. Byrne advised that the line item identified as Other Professional Fees are for appraisal services associated with tax appeals. She described the program for ratable reports that requires the use of the Bergen County Tax Board server and separate software maintenance.

Mr. Vinci reviewed the revised budget pages based on Monday's budget meeting and he confirmed the actual BCUA sewer charge increased by 3.7% as opposed to the 3.5% rate that he was advised verbally. He explained that everything in the budget was preliminary and to date currently shows a \$52 increase per average assessed home on the municipal portion of a resident's tax bill.

Council reviewed the current budget meeting schedule with the remaining departments. The meetings with the Building Department and Fire Prevention originally scheduled for February 23rd were rescheduled to February 21st, the Nature Center was rescheduled from March 5th to February 22nd, and the Fire Department and TVAC were rescheduled from March 5th to March 1st. Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez will issue a revised meeting notice.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Mr. Vinci noted that in the previous year's budget, there had been a capital request for metal detectors, but it was removed. He advised that the Police Chief recommends metal detectors, in which there will be personnel to operate since police officers are in the building during court hours anyway. C. LaMastra commented that Emerson uses civilians to operate their metal detectors. C. Kerge inquired about having police officers present during Council meetings. Council concurred on the appropriation of funds for metal detectors, but will ask Chief Bruno about operating expenses and Fourth Amendment issues during the Police Department budget meeting.

Council recessed at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Council asked Judge Bell about the operation of metal detectors. Judge Bell explained that other towns have either police officer or auxiliary police officer. Judge Bell explained that the overall budget request is the same, but is requesting a \$2000 raise and title change since the Violations Clerk is certified as a Deputy Court Administrator. The employee is more qualified than when she started, is good with the public and good on the computer. To offset the salary increase, he deducted \$2000 from the cost books and publications line item.

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 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk