

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act statement by Mayor Rustin.

Present: Mayor Peter S. Rustin,
Council members: Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig (arrived at 7:31 p.m.),
Martha Kerge (arrived at 7:11 p.m.), Nadia LaMastra, Michael Lattif, Jon Warms

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin
Chief Financial Officer: Gene Vinci
Department of Public Works: Bob Beutel, Director
Fire Department: Richard Philpott, Fire Chief

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON 2011 CAPITAL BUDGET:

Mr. Vinci advised that he has listed all of the requests that the Department Heads have submitted as well as the recommended amount for each request. He advised that some items were already submitted last year and had been included in last year's multipurpose ordinance.

Code Enforcement:

C. Lattif questioned the \$21,000 allocated for the scanner as he feels it is a service and should not be included in the capital budget. Mrs. Thompson-Chin responded that the fashion in which the project is being carried out meets the requirement of having a 5-year useful life. She advised that only one year is currently approved. The money allocated for 2010 can be used to initiate the project, but Council would need to commit to \$21,000/year for five years. C. Kerge questioned the necessity of this project and Mr. Vinci responded that the project addresses a space issue as it allows for the documents to be stored electronically. C. LaMastra commented that if money is put aside, she would like to see that the project is completed.

Fire Department:

Richard Philpott advised that their main priority is a new fire radio system that includes a base station, pagers, and new radios. He explained that they are currently doing a study of the frequency that will work best and he will be meeting with the company on April 8th to get a better idea of cost. Mrs. Thompson-Chin added that the Police Department will be upgrading their system as part of the renovation and these two projects will be linked. C. Kerge and C. Warms expressed their concern about placing this item in the budget without having more

specific information as to cost. Mayor Rustin commented that although he agrees more information is needed before the money is spent, he believes that the item with the estimated figure can be placed in the budget. Mr. Vinci advised that all numbers in the capital budget are estimates. C. Barzelatto expressed his opinion that the number will most likely be lower, but the frequency that is currently used is not adequate and a change needs to be made.

Mr. Philpott then advised that he is requesting \$55,000 for a new command vehicle. C. Lattif brought up the issue of graphics not having been placed onto the current command vehicle to identify it as a municipal vehicle. Mr. Philpott responded that he does not feel it is necessary for the vehicle to be marked. C. Kerge expressed her opposition to the purchase of any new vehicles this year as she feels it is a different year. The consensus of Council was to keep this request in the capital budget. Council also decided to place a discussion about the labeling of all municipal vehicles onto a work session agenda. Mrs. Thompson-Chin is to present a list of all vehicles that are not marked and the reason why they are not marked.

Department of Public Works:

Bob Beutel advised that he has revised the two roads to be repaved through the Riverside Co-op; the new selections are Franklin Street from Westervelt to DeMott and Burlington Road prior to Sussex Road. C. Barzelatto questioned the feasibility of repaving Tenafly Road. Mr. Beutel responded that there are three sewer repairs that need to be completed first and Mayor Rustin advised that they are hoping to get a grant to repave it next year. Mr. Beutel added that the DPW is going to do their best to patch it in the meantime. C. Honig asked that this information be conveyed to the resident who had written Correspondence Item 3A on the work session agenda.

Mr. Beutel advised that he is also requesting the replacement of a 1990 dump truck. He pointed out that this request has been in his budget for the past five to six years. C. Lattif questioned whether having bagged curbside leaf pickup would present the potential of reducing the need for five dump trucks down to four. Mr. Beutel responded that having bagged lead pickup would change the needs, but he also reminded Council that they need to take snow removal into consideration. C. Lattif suggested taking a look at this possibility. C. Kerge questioned what would happen to the truck being replaced and Mr. Beutel advised that it would be auctioned. Mr. Vinci advised that this money would be put into miscellaneous revenue unless the vehicle is traded in.

In terms of his request for facility improvements, Mr. Beutel advised that he was told by Mr. Vinci that there is \$300,000 set aside for the Recycling Center that can be put toward the new facility. Council decided that a plan should be put into place for a new facility as the current facility is in very bad shape. Mr. Beutel is to put a proposal together to present to the governing body and it will be discussed further at that time.

Mr. Beutel raised the issue of his request for a tree chipper and Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that she has brought the idea of sharing a tree chipper to the Riverside Co-op.

Recreation:

Council discussed the importance of the lightning detectors and the possibility of the funds coming out of the Open Space Trust account or obtaining a grant to have them installed.

Mayor Rustin suggested the idea of obtaining sponsorship for the basketball courts and allowing said sponsors to place a sign to advertise their business. Council agreed that this possibility should be looked into.

Court:

Mayor Rustin expressed his opinion that Council had decided to eliminate the metal detectors from the capital budget. Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that although there are POAA funds available, these can only be used for drunk driving activities. C. Honig asked that a request be made to make an exception. Council agreed to take this request out of the capital budget and revisit it again next year.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from C. LaMastra, second by C. Kerge, and with all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jewel Thompson-Chin
Acting Borough Clerk