

JANUARY 21, 2012

BUDGET MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, JANUARY 21, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BOROUGH HALL.

Mayor Dempsey's statement re: Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and that notice was given to the Coast Star and the Asbury Park Press on December 7, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Mangan, and McCarthy

Absent: None

Also present was Borough Attorney Mark Kitrick and Municipal Administrator Joseph DeIorio.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. DeIorio advised the council that the budget discussion today will be with the Superintendent of Public Works. He advised that the budget discussion will be of the Streets and Roads, Park and Playgrounds, Waterways, and Water/Sewer Operations. He advised that Capital items that are associated with the Water/Sewer operations will be discussed as well as vehicles and vehicle repair maintenance.

PUBLIC WORKS/WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Mr. DeIorio stated that Mr. Nicastro and he went over the goals and ideas that were discussed to try and lower the budget. He advised that they looked at ways to limit or reduce expenditures while trying to either maintain or improve services. He went over different items, goals, and suggestions that were looked at. He went over the emergency management program, which included a generator for the Borough Hall and the lift station. He went over some of the capital projects that would be on the list later in the budget process. He stated that the Beach Budget would be presented on February 25, 2012.

Mr. DeIorio and Mr. Nicastro went over the Streets and Roads budget. There was discussion on the leaf machines and when they were purchased. He advised the council on why there is an increase in the budgeted amount for repairs/Equipment.

Mr. Nicastro and Mr. DeIorio continued the budget discussion with tools, supplies and equipment. They also went over the money that was used for the storms for shade tree.

There was discussion on the information that was provided to FEMA and when the money would be expected from them and where the money would be placed.

Council Member Connolly wanted to know if this could be one area that would be looked at if more cuts need to be made.

Mr. DeIorio stated that "yes" it is and that if the 2% cap is not reached they will be going back to these budgets.

Mr. Nicastro continued the budget process with Certificates and Training.

There was discussion on the sign maintenance and the program that is in effect for them.

Mr. Nicastro continued with CDL licensing and the testing that is mandated by PEOSH. He advised that this testing is through the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF).

They moved forward with the budget process with road maintenance and paint, street sweeper, dump fees, and miscellaneous.

Mr. DeIorio stated that the overall budget is up by \$1,725, which is a 3 ½ % increase. He stated that if there is a situation where the 2% cap needs to be met then these line items would be revisited.

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Public Parks and Playgrounds Budget

There was discussion on the tennis courts, shuffleboard court, drinking fountains and the fountain in the Plaza.

Mr. Nicastro continued the budget process with tools and equipment.

There was discussion on a light being installed at Curtis Park to help the Police Department when patrolling that area.

Mr. Nicastro continued the budget process with New Equipment. He stated that he would like to start a picnic table replacement plan wherein 2 tables a year would be replaced.

Mr. DeIorio stated that \$2,000 is reserved for the Garden Club and this year they are asking for an additional request to help light the Christmas tree in Curtis Park.

The Budget process was continued with parks and playgrounds miscellaneous.

Mr. DeIorio stated that the parks and playgrounds total is an increase of \$3,700, which is associated with the picnic tables, the garden club request, and shuffleboard topping.

Water Ways Budget

Mr. DeIorio stated that there is no increase over what was budgeted last year.

Mr. Nicastro went over the budget and what was spent last year and what it was spent on.

Water Sewer Budget

Mr. DeIorio went over the salary and wages and the increase that there is and why. He stated that he anticipates that this year there will be 3 employees that are eligible to retire, although none of them have submitted any paperwork. He stated knowing that there are 3 possible retirees that impact needs to be considered to address their accumulated sick and other accumulated days that they have on the books. He stated that this fund is in the current budget but many of these employees are charged to the water sewer.

Mr. Nicastro went over the overtime in water sewer budget and the same amount is requested as last year. He also went over part time and seasonal employees and overtime in the different budgets. He continued with his budget.

There was discussion on solar panels for the water treatment plant and other issues that have come up in regards to the new water treatment plant.

Mr. Nicastro stated that a bypass was installed and valves repaired at the lift station for safety reasons which are the reason for the increase in the line item.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to take a 5 minutes recess, seconded by Council Member Mangan. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call was taken and Council Member Donovan made a motion to resume the budget meeting, seconded by Council Member McCarthy. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeIorio continued with supplies, tools, and equipment and Mr. Nicastro stated that the budgeted amount requested is the same as last year.

Mr. Nicastro stated that the Certificates and Training line is specifically for the Water licensing. He continued with conventions and seminars stating that there is an increase in this line by \$75.

Mr. DeIorio continued with legal and professional services coupled with water sewer engineering.

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Mayor Dempsey stated that this item should be marked to revisit if more cuts need to be made later on.

Mr. Nicastro continued with Borough Hall Maintenance, which is for the finance department and is part of the water budget and the same amount is requested as last year. He advised that the Lab Reports had an increase due to the water plant. He stated that the meter maintenance is flat.

There was discussion on new meters and how they would work compared to the system that is current being used.

Mr. Nicastro continued with license and permits which are associated with the State and gas and oil. He stated that there is a chart, which shows 5 years of vehicle repair, and he is requesting the same amount as last year.

There was discussion on the leaf machine and the repair costs.

Mr. DeIorio continued the budget with computer maintenance contract. He stated that \$10,000 is being requested for computer maintenance contract for ongoing IT and software upgrades. He advised that the group insurance has gone up approximately 21% as discussed at previous meeting and will be part of negotiations. He stated that other insurance has stayed flat from the prior year. He went over what the contingency line item is used for.

Mr. Nicastro advised that with the new water treatment plant the sludge removal should be reduced but would like to have the plant running for a year before he lowers this line item.

Mr. DeIorio continued with the budget and Mr. Nicastro went over the chemicals that will be used with the new water plant. He stated that there are two new accounts which are listed relate to the Borough's staffing within all the charges to the water sewer department. He stated that unemployment trust is whatever comes in goes out but if there is a situation where there are employees that are putting in for unemployment benefits over what was expected there will have to appropriate a line item with the larger dollar amount. He explained how the account would work.

There was discussion on the unemployment line item.

There was discussion on the percentage that the budget has increased and where money was saved.

Mr. Nicastro went over the capital improvement that he is requesting and his wish list.

There was discussion on the mobile generator.

There was discussion on Mr. Nicastro's wish list of 2 new vehicles and which vehicles they would replace and snow plows.

Mr. Nicastro stated that Truck 1 is being delivered with a plow and Trucks 2,3, 4,5, and 7 all have plows. He stated that Truck 9 is a brand new truck that was just took delivery on does not have a plow and Truck 8 Unit #17 has a plow, Unit 18 does not have a plow, Unit 20 has a plow, El Camino, Van, and the Jeep do not have plows.

Mr. DeIorio went over the way capital improvements can be paid for.

There was discussion on the Virginia Avenue Pump Station and the need for a generator. Mr. DeIorio recommended that a generator for the pump station be put into the budget so that there is no possibility of the pump station being compromised during another major storm. He advised the council that he has put together a schedule for the vehicle maintenance and the age of the vehicles. He went over the vehicle repairs for the council.

There was discussion on the trucks and there ages.

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Mr. DeIorio stated that next week will be the Code and Finance Budgets.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Council Member Donovan made a motion to open the meeting up to the public, seconded by Council Member Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Lou Cocozza, Manasquan resident inquired about the new Water Treatment Plant and wanted to know if the Borough was going to put out a detailed analysis of what the water plant ends up costing versus what was bonded for.

Mayor Dempsey stated that it is premature to put something like this together at this point because there are fees and expenses that relate to other issues that are associated with the new plant.

Mr. Cocozza stated that at the last council meeting Mr. Rooney made mention of another work order change that was needed for the removal of the undiscovered underground tank. He stated that Mr. Rooney advised that there will be ground treatment and water treatment which leads Mr. Cocozza to believe that the tank had hazardous materials in it.

Council Member Donovan stated that it has gasoline in it.

Mr. Cocozza wanted to know if that is the case how that tank could not be disclosed on a map.

Mayor Dempsey stated that this tank was not on any map that the Borough had for the property. He advised that the tank was under a sidewalk and it was discovered when the rerouting of the electrical for the new wells and it was not anticipated at all.

Mr. Cocozza wanted to know if there was any way to find out when the tank was put in.

Mayor Dempsey stated that there is no documentation for the tank.

Mr. Cocozza wanted to know if it was a fiberglass or metal tank.

Council Member Donovan stated that it was a steel tank.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to close the public portion, seconded by Council Member Mangan. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m., seconded by Council Member Mangan. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Ilaria
Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED 4-2-12