

JANUARY 30, 2010

BUDGET MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, JANUARY 30th, 2010 AT 9:06 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 22, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Lee, Lucas

Absent: None.

Also present was Municipal Administrator John Trengrove.

APPOINTMENT: 9:00 A.M. Wally Wall, Manasquan Beach Manager.

The Governing Body and Mr. Wall reviewed the Beach Utility Budget.

Mr. Wall related that the staff does not come in to work on days that it is raining with the exception of the lifeguards. He related that some of them go home when it is raining but for safety purposes a crew remains on duty. He related that the lifeguards are treated as professionals and that they expect to work a 40 hour work week. He related that they are given the hours, in part, to retain them.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that the lifeguard staff has training on rain dates.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the beach department staffing.

Council Member Grasso asked Mr. Wall how he formulated his budget.

Mr. Wall related that it is based on last year's expenditures and what he anticipates will be spent in 2010.

Council Member Grasso asked Mr. Wall if he goes budget to budget reflecting the 2010 budget off of the 2009 budget or does he do actual.

Mr. Wall related that he starts with actual numbers but that he can't use actual numbers for staffing.

Mayor Dempsey related that the Borough has no control over some of the numbers.

Mr. Trengrove related that the actual figures in 2009 are not good figures to use because they are based on staffing with 23 rain days and it is unknown how many rain dates will occur in 2010. He related that the budget figure has to be based on the potential staffing. He related that the actual figure cannot be used because it is weather sensitive. He also related that negotiation money is included in the staffing line item.

Council Member Connolly recommended increasing the special officer line item but removing it from the municipal general budget and then she stated that maybe there is something that can be decreased and put a little bit more money in. She asked if the \$30,000 in the Beach Utility Line Item #0-07-55-500-512 is included in the \$150,000 that is in the general budget for special officers.

Mr. Trengrove related that the \$30,000 is over and above the \$150,000 in the general budget.

Council Member Connolly recommended taking more of the special officer funding in the general budget and putting it in the beach utility budget.

Mayor Dempsey related that cannot be done because the Borough can only generate a certain amount of money on the beach budget and it is stretched really thin now.

Council Member Connolly recommended putting the \$28,000 for the vehicle purchase in the special officers line item.

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Mr. Trengrove related that the percentage of the operating costs for indirect costs in certain line items go back and offset certain costs in the current budget. He related that if the vehicle is removed the \$28,000 expenditure will still remain because it is the beach's contribution to offset the operating expenses in different departments.

Council Member Connolly related that her objective is to reduce the general budget by using the beach budget. She related that \$30,000 is a little low and that a lot of specials are used at the beach.

Mr. Wall described the special officer staffing at the beachfront area.

Mr. Trengrove related that the anticipated revenues were met in 2009 but that all of the surplus that was used was not replaced.

Mayor Dempsey related that the Borough cannot afford to take more money and put it in the beach for special officers. He related that the surplus will be depleted and if the Borough has a storm there would be serious financial implications.

Council Member Lee asked Mr. Wall what the percent of the beach budget is for the direct operation. He asked how much other departments are charged in support of the beach.

Mr. Wall related that he believes about 40 percent.

Council Member Connolly related that she put a motion on the table to increase the Special Officer Line Item #0-07-55-500-521 from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and decrease the Special Line Item in the current budget by \$20,000, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Motion failed by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Connolly, Grasso. "No" Council Members Bossone, Donovan, Lee, Lucas.

Council Member Connolly proposed charging the beach Utility for water usage in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that it should go to the Water & Sewer Budget.

Mayor Dempsey related that he believes the water usage was approximately \$1,870.00 last year.

Council Member Connolly related that not all of the water is metered at the beach.

Mayor Dempsey related that he believes 90 percent of the water is metered there.

Mr. Wall informed the Governing Body of where the water meters exist at the beachfront operation.

Mr. Trengrove related that he believes all of the water is metered there. He noted that he believes the expense can be legitimized to the public advocate's office. He related that if the surplus in the beach or water/sewer utility is depleted an automatic line item within the CAP will be required to be created in the current budget and will have to be funded with tax dollars.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to establish a new line item in the amount of \$2,000.00 to pay for water usage at the beach, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously approved with the exception of Council Member Bossone who voted against the motion.

Mr. Wall described the work that needs to be done at the Brielle Road bathroom, the Squan Beach Life Saving Station Parking Lot exit, the damaged beach walkway stairs, the beach office repairs, the underground conduit for lighting at Pompano Lot, boardwalk repairs and the Sea Watch Building rail for a total of approximately \$22,000.00. He noted that the Borough has a lawsuit resulting from the damage at the beach walkway stairs and also that they will do whatever work that can be done in house.

Council Member Bossone related that most of these repairs have been put off for several years and are safety related.

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Mayor Dempsey related that since the money from the Sea Watch Lease goes into the general fund, the repairs to it should come out of the general fund.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to increase Line Item #0-07-55-510-503/Repairs – Equipment & Building from \$14,000 to \$25,000, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Municipal Clerk related that a new water heater is needed in the Sea Watch building.

Council Member Lucas made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-07-55-510-505/Legal and Professional Services from \$12,000 to \$10,000, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Connolly asked Mr. Wall to explain the Beach Badge Line Item #0-07-55-510-510.

Mr. Wall related that the 2009 figure was so low since they did not order badges yet because they are looking at new badge options.

Council Member Connolly asked if the wrist bands will be scanned.

Mr. Wall related that they would not because the scanning system is too expensive.

Council Member Grasso related that he did research on scanning and that it is a good way to get into the 21st Century. He related that it can be done cheaply and that daily beach access and parking information could be obtained at the end of the day.

Mr. Trengrove related that information is done manually now.

Mayor Dempsey asked how much each scanner is.

Council Member Grasso related that they are \$9,000.00.

Mayor Dempsey pointed out that there are 15 beach openings.

Mr. Wall explained the badge tracking process that is used currently.

Council Member Lucas asked for confirmation that the Council agreed with the funding in Line Item #0-07-55-510-513/Share of Police – Other Expenses in the amount of \$29,345.00 of which \$28,318.00 will be used to purchase a police vehicle.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

Council Member Connolly suggested moving the Tourism Commission funding in the amount of \$3,505.00 in the general budget and move it to the Tourism Commission Line Item #0-07-55-510-522 in the Beach Utility budget.

Mayor Dempsey related that would be cutting the budget too close.

Council Member Bossone related that there are other increases that need to be discussed before reducing any items in the Beach budget.

Council Member Connolly related that the Tourism expenses should be kept together.

Mayor Dempsey related that the Tourism Commission lost \$5,000.00 in donation this year.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Office and Computer Line Item #0-07-55-510-523 needed to be increased to cover the cost of Computer SPAM. He related that it has become a real problem that needs to be controlled. He also related that some more of the costs for Edmunds is being moved over to the Beach Utility budget.

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Mr. Wall related that the Uniform Line Item has increased because the Borough will not be getting any uniforms donated this year.

Council Member Grasso related that K-Mart is cheap. He related that he has a contact at Izod who may be able to help.

There was some discussion regarding Line Item #0-07-55-510-548/Tractor.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that the Borough can no longer transport gasoline for the non-roadworthy beach department vehicles. He related that it has to be delivered by a fuel company which includes a delivery charge.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to increase Line Item #0-07-55-510-548/Tractor from \$10,000 to \$14,000, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Roll Call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Connolly asked what happened to the Ocean Ave playground equipment that was purchased in 2003 around the same time that the Boroughs of Bradley Beach and Belmar purchased similar equipment that is still located on their beachfronts. She related that the Yard family contributed \$3,000 towards its purchase.

Mr. Wall related that it was rusting along the base and top. He related that it was dangerous. He related that he received an estimate of \$9,000 to repair it.

Council Member Connolly related that she doesn't see the equipment on Bradley Beach or Belmar rusting and asked why Manasquan's equipment was rusting.

Mr. Trengrove related that it is due to the proximity of Manasquan's equipment to the water. He related that Belmar's equipment is further from the ocean and does not get wet from it. He related that the waves and salt water wash underneath the equipment in Manasquan.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter.

Mr. Wall related that he was advised by the Borough's insurance company to have it removed because it was dangerous.

Council Member Connolly related that Manasquan did not have the vendor put it in and that the DPW did.

Mr. Trengrove related that the vendor supervised the Manasquan DPW.

Council Member Connolly related that she is disturbed because the Borough spent \$30,000 on the equipment and it only lasted 6 years. She asked if the Borough did something wrong.

Mr. Trengrove related that it may have been different specifications.

Council Member Connolly related that she does not think so.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Borough is looking for the vendor to recommend a different type of equipment that is more suitable for that location.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Bossone related that he believes the Borough saved \$9,000 by installing the equipment.

Mayor Dempsey reiterated the differences between the Manasquan and Belmar beaches and that Manasquan's equipment is exposed to the ocean water and the Belmar's equipment is not.

Council Member Grasso related that is more the reason why the Borough shouldn't have a thing like this at the beach.

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Council Member Bossone made a motion to decrease Line Item #0-07-55-510-556 to \$2,000.00, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Council Member Bossone related that the committee is proposing that the municipality approve a bond ordinance to be used for the purchase of items at the beach.

Mr. Trengrove noted that a bond ordinance spreads the cost of the item out over its useful life and is shared by everyone that is using the item.

Mr. Wall related that the items for purchase are a replacement jungle gym in the amount of \$32,000.00 plus a \$9,000 installation fee, an All Purpose Maintenance & Fuel Transportation Truck in the amount of \$35,000.00 and Shower Towers for the beachfront in the amount of \$32,855.00 including delivery for 14 showers and \$3,000 for the platforms.

Mr. Wall reiterated Mr. Trengrove's comments regarding the need to transport fuel to the Beach Department vehicles. He also related that they are no longer able to get parts for the beachfront showers.

Council Member Grasso commented that Home Depot can do a lot.

Mr. Wall related that there is a lot of vandalism and theft to the showers.

Council Member Grasso related that more specials are needed up at the beachfront at night.

Mr. Wall related that either the Borough will spend the money on funding the special officers or on the showers.

Council Member Lucas related that installing surveillance cameras there has been discussed.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Connolly asked if the purchase of these items will result in an increase in the beach badge prices.

Council Member Bossone related that they will not directly impact the beach badge prices but that the year to year operation costs will impact the beach badge prices.

Council Member Connolly related that the taxpayers are going to want to know why the Borough is spending so much money in these tough times. She related that if the Borough should sacrifice this year and perhaps only do one or two of these things. She related that it makes sense to put surveillance cameras up in the beachfront area.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of installing surveillance cameras at the beachfront area.

Mr. Trengrove related that several years ago the Borough received a quote of approximately \$60,000 to set up a surveillance camera at the Inlet area. He also pointed out that it is less expensive to bundle item into one bond ordinance.

Council Member Lee related that the current beachfront showers have lived their useful life and are now wasting water.

Council Member Lucas related that the current showers are obsolete and a lot of water is being wasted there. He stated that they need to be replaced and noted that parts are not available for the current showers.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Borough created showers with a 4 X 4 and a shower head but the shower heads and pipes were vandalized. He related that the Shower Towers are resistant to vandalism.

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Mr. Wall related that they are proposing the installation of storage bins as a revenue source.

Council Member Connolly related that the Borough will be getting the lockers back when it gets the Sea Watch (property) back.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Bossone related that it is a service that will make the Borough of Manasquan's beach a little nicer for its patrons. He related that they are considering placing 20 at the beachfront area.

Mr. Wall related that Bradley Beach charges \$125.00 per box. He related that the Beach Department can handle the maintenance of the boxes.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Mayor Dempsey related that they will generate revenue for the Borough.

Council Member Connolly related that she is concerned that these purchases will affect the general budget. She asked if the bond will be paid off with beach revenue.

Mr. Trengrove related that it would be unless there is a shortfall and no surplus in the utility budget.

Council Member Lee asked Mr. Wall for a comparison of the Manasquan beach badges with the other area beach towns.

Mr. Wall informed the Governing Body of the badge costs in the surrounding beach municipalities.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the beach badge prices.

Council Member Connolly related that she has no problem with this as long as the Beach Department makes its budget and the costs are not passed along to the residents of the town.

Mr. Trengrove also noted that the Brielle Road and Main Beach bathrooms need to be replaced.

Mr. Wall was excused from the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

A brief recess was held.

The budget meeting was reconvened at 11:11 a.m.

APPOINTMENT: Mike Sinneck, Manasquan Environmental Commission.

The Governing Body and Mr. Sinneck reviewed the Manasquan Environmental Commission FY 2010 budget request.

Council Member Connolly noted that this budget has been reduced by approximately 30 percent which would have been her recommendation. She noted that she will be recommending the reduction of 30 percent of all the discretionary funds, for example the Shade Tree Commission and the Garden Club. She asked if Mr. Sinneck could live with \$1,631.00 instead of the proposed figure of \$1,660.00.

Mr. Sinneck replied affirmatively.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Manasquan Environmental Commission programs.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to accept the Manasquan Environmental Commission's budget in the amount of \$1,631.00, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

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APPOINTMENT: Manasquan Court Administrator Marie Higgins, Manasquan Court Judge and Department Head Mark Apostolou and Brielle Court Judge Capotorto.

Mr. Trengrove related that Manasquan pays Judge Apostolou and that Brielle pays Judge Capotorto. He also noted that the funding for the prosecutor is in the Police Department budget. He noted that the prosecutor will be taking his salary instead of deferring it as he did in 2009.

The Governing Body reviewed the Court Budget with Judge Apostolou, Judge Capotorto and Marie Higgins. Judge Apostolou and Mr. Trengrove informed the Governing Body of the cost savings actions that have been taken to date through out the years to save the money in their budget, including the Manasquan-Brielle Court Interlocal, staff reduction, a stipend along with a fax installation for the processing of warrants and video arrangements.

Judge Apostolou related that the Administrative Office of the Courts is recommending that the Borough install metal detectors and post police officers at the court room entrance. He related that he feels safe using the Borough's Court bailiff and police officers that are in the court room on court days. He related that it is his position that if the State is going to mandate these upgrades then they should pay for it. He related that he has to include the \$6,000.00 in the budget to pay for these items but that the Governing Body can deny his request if the taxpayers can't afford it.

Council Member Lucas asked if it is a mandate.

Judge Apostolou related that they are mandating that the Judge inform the Governing Body that he wants these security upgrades. He related that Asbury Park is spending approximately \$40,000 on this security system.

Council Member Connolly asked Judge Apostolou to reduce Line Item #0-01-43-490-044/Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions from \$750.00 to \$500.00.

Judge Apostolou replied affirmatively.

Mayor Dempsey related that he would be more comfortable with \$600.00. Council Member Connolly agreed.

Judge Apostolou replied affirmatively.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-43-490-044/Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions from \$750.00 to \$500.00, seconded by Council Member Lucas. No vote was taken.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to accept the Manasquan Court budget as presented, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Roll Call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Trengrove noted that if the Borough finds out it has a problem with the 4 percent CAP this budget may be revisited.

Marie Higgins, Judge Apostolou and Judge Capotorto exited the meeting at 12:06 P.M.

Appointment: Manasquan Shade Tree Commission Chairman Neil Paulsen.

Mr. Paulsen and the Governing Body reviewed the Shade Tree Commission budget. Mr. Paulsen briefly described their mission and goals for 2010. He emphasized the importance of the elevation maintenance schedule and noted that it would be detrimental if the Borough neglected it. He related that the elevation program eliminates hazards. He related that tree removals are very expensive and that a tree removal cannot always be anticipated. He related that they budgeted \$2,500 to \$3,000 to plant trees in the Fourth Ave Parking Lot to replace trees that have died there. He also related that they budgeted money to replace key trees

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that died as a result of a storm. He related that three trees are needed for Main Street because there are problems with their roots.

Council Member Connolly asked why the Main Street trees need to be removed.

Mr. Paulsen related that the tree roots are lifting up the sidewalks causing trip hazards. He stated that the only way to remove the trip hazard's there is to cut the tree roots so that the sidewalk can be lowered. He stated that the root damage from the cutting will be extensive enough to kill the tree, therefore, the trees will have to be removed.

Mayor Dempsey noted that if the tree roots were cut to that extent the tree would lack stability and could fall.

Council Member Connolly asked if he could get information from the Master Gardeners to see if anything could be done.

Mr. Trengrove related that they plan to replace the trees with new trees that require less maintenance.

Mr. Paulsen related that the cost to replace those trees is approximately \$1,000.00.

Mr. Trengrove related that trip and falls suits are one of the largest insurance exposures for the Borough. He related that the Borough received a letter from local business owner's attorney putting the Borough on notice about the sidewalk issues on Main Street.

Council Member Connolly related that she thinks the Shade Tree Commission should look to save trees and that every attempt should be made to save a tree.

Mr. Paulsen related that they do a lot of pruning and fertilization in an effort to preserve trees.

Mr. Trengrove related that recently a shade tree on South Street was preserved by doing concrete work instead of removing the tree.

Mr. Paulsen related that the last thing they want to do is to remove a tree.

There was continued discussion regarding the three trees that are targeted to be removed and replaced on Main Street.

There was also discussion about planting trees along the Route 71 corridor along with some curbing and sidewalk improvements.

Mr. Paulsen reviewed the training requirements to be a certified Shade Tree Commission and other proposed Shade Tree Commission projects.

Council Member Lee asked Mr. Paulsen if there were any where the budget could be trimmed.

Mr. Paulsen did not reveal any areas where the budget could be reduced.

Council Member Connolly related that the total budget for the Shade Tree Commission request is \$28,500.00. She recommended reducing the budget by 30 percent because they are discretionary funds. She related that would leave \$19,950.00 for the Shade Tree to work with.

Council Member Lee related that everyone is looking to drill down the budget but that he believes the wrong way to do it is to pick an arbitrary number of 30 percent just because we cut \$700.00 in the Environmental Commission budget. He related that he believes that we are failing to look at the savings that are realized because of the elevation plans, DPW overtime and equipment costs. He related that he would agree to have less plantings in 2010 but that he does not agree to the reduction of 30 percent. He related that a sounder approach would

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be to reduce in the planting area of the budget to a number that the Shade Tree Commission could live with but could still achieve their goals.

Mayor Dempsey agreed with Council Member Lee's comments and noted that no tree were lost during the last storm due to the Shade Tree Commission's tree programs.

Council Member Connolly related that it is more fair and easier to explain a standard across the board. She asked how will the Governing Body explain to people that are going into foreclosure, are losing their jobs and don't have a lot of money coming in that we are not cutting these budgets.

Council Member Donovan related that Council Member Connolly is not applying a fair standard across the board and it was noted that Council Member Connolly recommended a one percent increase for the private library in Manasquan.

Council Member Connolly suggested that Council Member Donovan read the Library referendum that was approved in the past.

Council Member Donovan related that he did read the referendum. He explained that it was a non-binding referendum.

Council Member Connolly related that they get a cost of living increase guaranteed.

Mayor Dempsey, Council Member Donovan and the Municipal Clerk all stated that it was not a binding referendum.

Council Member Connolly said to read the past practice which has been to observe the referendum. She related that we are discussing an entirely different group that uses discretionary funds.

Council Member Donovan and Mayor Dempsey related that the library donation is discretionary.

Council Member Connolly related that it is almost mandatory.

Council Member Donovan related that it is not mandatory.

Council Member Connolly asked how are the tax payers going to feel when they see the Borough planting trees when they are struggling to pay their taxes and mortgages. She related that we are going to attempt to cut these discretionary funds this year as much as we can. She related that 30 percent is a good figure.

Council Member Lee related that he agrees that the Borough has to be as cost efficient and effective as possible but that he does not agree with the methodology that is proposed by Council Member Connolly.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce the Shade Tree Budget Planting budget by \$3,000.00, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Bossone, Donovan, Lee, Lucas. "No" Council Members Connolly and Grasso.

There was continued discussion about possible areas of reduction in the Shade Tree budget.

Council Member Connolly related that trees don't feed people and that the Borough is sending out the wrong message.

The Governing Body and the Municipal Clerk reviewed the Municipal Clerk's budget, the Animal Control budget and the Clerk's portion of the Buildings and Grounds budget.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to reduce the Borough's newsletter Line Item #0-01-20-120-023 to \$3,200 to plan for 2 newsletters, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-20-120-033 from \$300.00 to \$100.00, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to adjourn the budget meeting at 12:54 p.m., seconded by Council Member Bossone. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Scimeca
Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED 3-22-10