

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

February 12, 2025

The Budget Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Larson at 3:00pm at Borough Hall, 10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. He said that notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and a 48 notice was transmitted to the Asbury Park Press and the Beach Haven Times.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Spark, Wellington was absent, Gutowski, Reynolds, Mikuletzky
Also present: Mayor Larson, Kathleen Flangan and Brenda Kuhn

FINANCE:

Kathleen Flanagan, CFO, started with finance. Revaluation was the first topic of discussion. She said it seems more complicated than first anticipated. In the beginning she thought she needed a resolution for a Special Emergency which would allow us to raise the money over the next 5 years. She said that last year she budgeted \$125,000. She said the Tax Assessor said it should cost about \$150,000 which she feels is very low. She spoke to the auditor to make certain that things will be done correctly. Once it goes out to bid, you have 60 days to award the contract. the funds must be appropriated. She said she would read the bid specs, go out to bid, find the cost and start the process of adopting an ordinance, if it comes in higher than anticipated to allow the money to be raised over five years. \$125,000 is going to be in this year's budget. She asked council what their timeline is. Mayor Larson said that the assessor wanted to get the majority of this done in the summer and the revaluation should be done for 2026. After the conversation today, she has a really good idea on the budget and will soon know what the tax increase will be, if any. She announced that she would like to have introduction at the March meeting and adoption in April.

UTILITY OPERATING:

Kat said that we ended 2024 with \$11,900 reserve funds. December bills that came January had to be paid out of out of this year's budget. She said water rents were \$195,127.24 over anticipated and sewer rents were \$173,657.97 over anticipated. She ended 2024 surplus of \$537,872.31 and she will be using \$522,994.40 of that to balance this budget. She said she is adding \$150,000 for the infrastructure for one of the streets. Mayor Larson said we usually replace water mains on one street every year.

OPEN SPACE:

Kat said that everything purchased for Open Space was completely paid off. She added that the open space money could be can used to maintain any open space. Gutowski asked what the money has been used for in the past and if there was any surplus. She replied that the coast guard property was purchased and paid off and there was approximately \$200,000 in surplus.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Reynolds said she wanted a gator for the beach because people don't like trucks on the beach. Kat said the capital budget is just a wish list. You can put it in the budget but it doesn't mean you will get it. There was a conversation about the usefulness of a gator. Kat said she thought a truck was being ordered. She explained that capital plan is a 5-year plan. Some of the things suggested included two generators, one for well #4 and a portable at \$125,000 each, a truck and a gator.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police contract \$748,422.46 which is a 2% increase, which is contractual. More money needs to budgeted for LOSAP due to more volunteers becoming eligible.

Anticipated revenue items for the working budget were reviewed at this time:

- Fees and permits came in slightly less
- Beach badges fees higher than anticipated
- Water tower rental brought in \$170,000. That was due to T-Mobile finally paying after 3 years
- Energy receipt tax numbers aren't out yet, therefore last years number will be used
- Municipal Relief Fund is no longer available

Salary and wages

- Budget reflects 3% increase

Information technology

- Going up significantly-\$50,000 to \$\$100.000
- Scanning records, the Foveonics system is amazing
- Cyber security is huge and very costly
- Our IT is terrible, need to seek a new company

Insurance

- Went up slightly

Emergency Management

- Not much was spent last year
- Radios may be needed and are expensive

Streets and Road Maintenance

- Lowering OE
- Ocean County Road Dept.-\$10,000 for Schedule "C"

Public Buildings and Grounds

- Lowered OE from last year
- Painting the building

Animal Control

- Raising this line slightly

Lifeguard Salary

- Slight increase
- OE-no more paddle boards will be purchased

Beachfront Maintenance

- Things included in this budget item include, Public Works, badge checkers, tram, etc.-up slightly

Public Docks

- This line includes, but not limited to, cameras, uniforms, electricity.

Uniform Construction

- Lowered OE

Unclassified

- Utility includes electricity, natural gas, phone, phone and gasoline

Statutory Expenditures

- Includes PERS, Social Security and Unemployment Compensation Insurance

LOSAP

- Going up-a lot of people are qualifying
- Fire Company going up to \$45,000
- First Aid going up to \$8,500

Shared Service Agreements

- Construction Code Services
- Police
- Board of Health
- Transportation-Shuttle

Grants

- Recycling Tonnage Grant-down slightly
- Clean Communities-up slightly
- Community Block Grant-\$40,000

Capital Improvement Fund

- Always puts in \$150,000, it can be used for multiple things

Payment schedule to pay this year

- Bond Anticipation Notes
- Interest on Notes and Bonds

Kat said that this budget should not be painful for the residents.

Motion to Close:

Motion: Foley

Second: Gutowski

Approved: