

BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
HELD AT THE
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY
SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 10:06 am.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti. Absent: None. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Donna Mollineaux, Chief Financial Officer.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager announced this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and included in the schedule of regular meetings.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Superintendent Anthony Marcucilli was in attendance to discuss his department's budget. Mayor Schwager complimented the DPW on the wonderful job they do on the roads.

Councilman Jensen asked for an overview of the Department. Mr. Marcucilli explained that Oakland is made up of 60 miles of roads. The Department of Public Works is a 20 man Department consisting of seven divisions: Streets & Roads, Water, Stormwater, Sewer, Garbage and Recycling, Vehicle Maintenance and Buildings & Grounds Maintenance. He explained that garbage is very important to the residents and the Department receives approximately 25 calls per day about garbage. Eugene MacMahon is the Recycling Coordinator and he handles those issues. Mr. Marcucilli explained that Stormwater regulations are getting more stringent.

Mr. Marcucilli advised that the budget is essentially flat. In the Streets & Roads budget, there is an increase for street sweeping. Mr. Marcucilli explained that our contract is ending. The roads have to be swept as per State regulations. An increase is being put in the budget for the new contract because it is getting more expensive to get rid of the waste. Councilman Jensen asked if Mr. Marcucilli has explored the cost of purchasing a street sweeper. Mr. Marcucilli responded he has numbers. He would not want to purchase a sweeper unless it had a vacuum. He explained that there are two shared service sweepers for Northwest Bergen towns but it is difficult to get the sweeper when we need it. Mr. Kunze advised that several years ago, the County bought two sweepers for NW Bergen towns. One is housed in Mahwah and the other in Allendale. Councilman Pignatelli asked if we can house the shared service sweeper here so it is more readily available to use. Mr. Marcucilli responded that the sweeper requires a lot of maintenance. Mr. Kunze advised that the host communities are responsible for maintenance and they bill the other municipalities a portion of the cost. He advised that he is preparing a specification to go out to bid. Councilman Kulmala asked if, when we borrow the sweeper, we provide our own operator. Mr. Marcucilli responded that we do.

Mr. Marcucilli advised that there is an increase in the Materials line item because this year's winter took a tremendous toll on the roads. The roads are actually washboarding. Most will settle but there will be cracks. Mayor Schwager asked if the Borough utilizes equipment from the County for pothole repairs. Mr. Marcucilli responded that he has been doing research on a paving kettle. With that piece of equipment, we would be able to keep paving material overnight and we would be able to get more material at one time. Mayor Schwager asked about the "pothole killer" machine that the County is supposed to be getting. Mr. Marcucilli responded that it is a real expensive piece of equipment and not enough is known about it yet. Councilman Kulmala asked if the hot box can work on the new truck beds. Mr. Marcucilli explained it is a self-contained trailer unit.

Mr. Marcucilli advised there is a slight increase in the Garbage and Recycling budget. This increase is contractual with the hauler. Councilman Pignatelli commented that residents are complaining about the new recycling rules and asked if the Borough will ever go back to recycling all the various materials. Mr. Marcucilli explained that the market dried up for those light plastic materials. Shredded paper is not recycled anymore because it can stick to plastic material and can contaminate the batch. Councilman Pignatelli advised that the Borough will hold a shredding event on May 30th.

Mr. Marcucilli advised that this year we had a significant winter. The difference between this winter and last winter was that last year's storms were during the daytime and were mid-week. This year storms fell on the weekend and overnight so there was more overtime used. He explained that the Borough is waiting on reimbursement of \$ 14,000 from the County for plowing County roads. Mr. Marcucilli will deposit that money into the Salary and Wages line. Councilman Jensen commented that many towns were hard hit by snow this year and he is glad the Borough made out ok. Councilman Talamini asked what we get for reimbursement by the County. Mr. Marcucilli advised that the Borough gets a flat rate to cover overtime cost and vehicle usage. This year is \$ 95 per hour plus the County replenishes any salt that was used. Mr. Kunze explained that we usually credit those reimbursements back to the Overtime line.

Councilman Jensen commented that two new vehicles were delivered yesterday. Mr. Marcucilli advised that two of the new dump trucks arrived yesterday and were used to salt yesterday. He explained that these new trucks are hook trucks and they have different attachments. He explained it will take five minutes to change the body on the new trucks where the old trucks took an hour and 45 minutes to switch from a salt spreader to a paving truck. Councilman Pignatelli commented that this will help deliver services to the public quicker and will increase efficiency.

Mr. Marcucilli advised that the Buildings and Grounds budget is flat. Mayor Schwager questioned the line for Rental of Land. Mr. Marcucilli explained that we lease a portion of the land next to the railroad tracks in the municipal parking lot by the Remax building. There is also a line item for Rental of Land in the Water budget because there is a water main that runs along the railroad tracks across from the DPW building. Councilman Pignatelli questioned who maintains the driveway of that parking lot because it needs maintenance. Mr. Marcucilli advised that the rear of the parking lot is maintained by the Borough. The part close to the entrance must be maintained by the property owners. Councilman Pignatelli commented about the snow that is piled onto the sidewalk by Chase Bank during the winter. Mr. Marcucilli explained that is done by the Bank's plowing contractor and it is the property owner's responsibility to clear the sidewalk.

The Vehicle Maintenance budget is used to maintain over 200 pieces of equipment. The large dump body truck maintenance is outsourced so there is a line item for those charges. Councilman

Jensen commented that the salary line is down. Mr. Marcucilli explained that the Supervisor retired and that position was replaced in-house. Councilman Kulmala asked what the overall health of the fleet is. Mr. Marcucilli advised that there are older pieces of equipment. The vehicles rot before the engines fail. However, we are working on getting back to a good replacement schedule so we won't have to purchase 3 vehicles at a time.

Discussion turned to the Water Utility budget. Mr. Marcucilli explained that the Clothing allowance line went up but that is a contractual increase. Mr. Kunze explained that the rate stabilization line was set up a few years ago to help moderate rate increases. Councilman Visconti explained that it works in a similar manner to a trust account. In past years, consumption has been down but operating costs are the same. The rate stabilization line is to help offset increases. Some years it is used, and some it is not. Councilman Pignatelli commented that the utility must be self-sustaining by law. Councilman Kulmala asked what the overall health of the utility is. Mr. Marcucilli explained that the Borough has been proactive on changing water mains that are old and have leaked. There is a preventative maintenance program on pumps and wells. Councilman Visconti explained that at the Water & Sewer Committee meetings, they discuss long-term planning of the system. He explained that they are looking at a more sophisticated meter reading system. Mr. Marcucilli explained that Boswell Engineering is great at exploring grants for the work that needs to be done on the Water system.

Mr. Kunze explained that the main line item for gasoline is in the current fund but a portion is put in the Water Utility. Operationally that line is used as a reserve. Mr. Kunze explained that he wanted to make sure there was enough to cover the bond sale in the Capital Improvement Fund and Principal.

Councilman Talamini left the meeting at 11:00 am.

Discussion turned to the Capital budget requests. Mr. Marcucilli explained he is requesting two pickup trucks which will be replacing 1992 and 1996 vehicles. He is requesting to replace a 1998 Mason Dump. Mr. Marcucilli is requesting to replace a 1989 John Deere backhoe. Mr. Marcucilli is requesting money to repair the garage floor. It was not done with construction of the new building and the floor is pitting.

Councilman Jensen commented that there is money budgeted for the Library renovation and Phase 2 flood buyout. Mr. Kunze explained these projects are not under Mr. Marcucilli's purview. Mr. Kunze explained that the Borough is taking the same approach with storm sewer repairs as the sidewalk and road program. Councilman Visconti explained that there has been some concerns with stormwater because of the deluge through the streams and easements. Citizens have expressed concerns where they are losing property. The Borough has to put in an effort to address this issue at some point.

Mr. Kunze explained the allotment for Streets and Roads is for the Borough's annual maintenance program. He explained that there is enough to pave 2 miles of roads. The allotment for sidewalks is enough to do the sidewalks for the Safe Routes to Schools program. The Borough will be receiving \$ 290,000 from the grant which will need to be amended in the capital plan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Curtis LeRoy and Assistant Chief Charles Kelly were in attendance to discuss the Fire Department budget. Chief LeRoy explained that the Oakland Fire Department currently has 70 members and responds from two stations. The goal of the Fire Department is to continue the 20-

year apparatus replacement program, to continue to be in compliance with NFPA and OSHA, to continue training for swiftwater rescue, to continue renovations at the Fire House and to continue to work with other Borough departments. Last year, the Fire Department requested 2 new vehicles for the Assistant Chiefs. He explained they waited for the newly designed model to come out but a requisition has been done for the purchase. Mr. Kunze advised that it is on for Council discussion next week.

Chief LeRoy explained that equipment testing is required by the NFPA. That includes testing of the air packs, hoses, pumps and rescue tools. The equipment maintenance line is down because of the new vehicles. However, currently the ladder truck is out of service and will be out for a month and a half. Franklin Lakes is currently helping to cover with a ladder truck. Truck 1032 and 1034 also require maintenance.

The contracted services line is up. That line item is used for the firehouse software. He explained that the Department is looking to connect to a Cloud system. The line item for contracted services is used for the website, e-dispatch and air cards used in the rescue truck and Chief's car.

Councilman Jensen commented that the overall budget is relatively flat. Chief LeRoy responded it is down .6% from last year.

Discussion turned to Capital requests. Chief LeRoy explained he needs to replace three sets of turnout gear. The gear is only good for 10 years per NFPA rules. Chief LeRoy advised he wanted a training tower for \$25,000 at Company 3. Mr. Kunze explained that request did not make the list because it was not mandatory. Chief LeRoy explained that fire fighters have to practice how to jump out of a multistory building in case they need to bail out during a fire. The training tower would be an asset because of conflicts with people's schedules. Councilman Pignatelli asked if there is an alternative. Chief LeRoy responded that they can use the Bergen County Academy facility. Councilman Visconti asked if the cost can be shared with other departments. Chief LeRoy advised he reached out to Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff. Councilman Visconti asked if any grant money was available. Chief LeRoy advised he has spoken to contractors to see if they will donate services. Councilman Kulmala advised that this training is required of fire fighters because of safety. There is a value to this long-term. Mr. Kunze advised that when he had the budget meeting with the Fire Chief, the Chief said he would be reaching out to Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff. Mr. Kunze did not include it with this year's request because it was not marked mandatory and the Fire Chief is still researching with other towns about sharing.

Chief LeRoy must replace 9 Scott paks this year. They have a 15-year life span. Councilman Kulmala advised that this is the air supply that the fire fighters are breathing. Chief LeRoy needs to replace hoses and nozzles that were damaged in 2014. There is a request to purchase 10 new pagers. Chief LeRoy advised that pagers are the first dispatch for the Fire Department. There is an issue with low band frequency. Councilman Kulmala asked if we are still able to secure low band pagers. Chief LeRoy responded that he found one vendor. The pagers are not user friendly and are complicated. He advised that low band frequency is disappearing. Councilman Pignatelli asked what would be necessary to secure a VHF signal. Chief LeRoy responded it would require a whole new system and a secure frequency. Councilman Pignatelli asked if that would be an advantage if the Borough were to go with County dispatch. Chief LeRoy advised the Borough would need all new pagers if we went with County dispatch. Mr. Kunze explained that there are two prior capital allocations for new radio equipment for \$ 450,000. We realized that we will have to replace the system.

Chief LeRoy advised that he is down significantly on the capital requests this year. He has a concern over Company 2 renovation since the new Engine is already in New Jersey. Mr. Kunze advised that there was an allocation in last year's capital budget for \$ 140,000. The pricing came in higher than the architect's estimate. We are waiting on the architect's recommendation. There will be enough in previous capital to address this. Councilman Pignatelli commented that the Fire Chief said last year that it was going to be a much smaller capital budget in 2015. Mr. Kunze reminded the Council that we are putting \$ 200,000 in this capital budget towards the next fire truck.

Councilman Kulmala asked the Fire Chief to explain the shared response with Franklin Lakes. Chief Leroy advised that there is a lack of manpower in the daytime. Therefore, from Monday through Friday between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm, both Franklin Lakes and Oakland will respond to calls that meet certain criteria. This went into effect March 9th. Franklin Lakes has responded to Oakland 4 times since then. Councilman Jensen thanked the Fire Chief for his time today.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilwoman Coira, this portion of the meeting be opened for public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Visconti.

No comments made.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, this portion of the meeting be closed to public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned at 11:59 am.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Visconti.

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk
April 8, 2015

Mayor Linda H. Schwager

Date Approved