

BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
HELD AT THE
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY
FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 5:01 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Coira, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Visconti. Absent: Councilmembers Jensen, Stagg. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; James Mangin, 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.

EXCUSE ABSENCES:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilwoman Coira, the absence of Councilmembers Jensen and Stagg be excused.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Visconti.

DPW BUDGET:

Councilman Visconti advised that the DPW budget consists of Streets and Roads; Buildings and Grounds Maintenance; Garbage; Stormwater Management; Water Utility and Sewer Utility.

DPW Superintendent Anthony Marcucilli gave an update on the status of the DPW building renovation. The building is scheduled to be done at the end of June or beginning of July.

Councilman Visconti explained that the DPW salaries and wages lines have increased by \$38,000 or 4.3%. This is due to the terms of the new contract plus the promotions that were recently made. The O.E. budget is down 8.8%. Mr. Marcucilli responded that is due to the \$166,000 reduction in the solid waste contract. Mr. Kunze advised there are three things happening in the O.E. budget. The Streets and Roads O.E. is up by \$20,000 due to the \$15,000 increase in the street sweeping contract. The increased uniform enhancement to employees has a \$5,000 impact. These increases are offset by the large reduction in the solid waste collection contract.

Councilman Pignatelli commented that the Shade Tree Commission budget is up by \$6,000. Mr. Kunze advised that increase was put in place last year. The Shade Tree Commission felt that they had to be more aggressive with tree removal. In 2012, there was a large expenditure that was due to tree removals due to Hurricane Sandy. That should be reimbursed 75% by FEMA.

Councilwoman Marcalus questioned if street sweeping is required to be done by law. Mr. Marcucilli responded that street sweeping is required as part of our stormwater management permit from the DEP. We are required to do every street twice per year. Streets in the downtown and by schools are done more frequently. Councilwoman Marcalus asked if street sweeping is

funded by the State since it is State-mandated. Mr. Marcucilli responded it is not. Mr. Kunze responded this requirement is regulatory in nature and has been in place for ten years. Councilman Pignatelli asked if the requirements for street sweeping change due to stormwater regulations. Mr. Marcucilli responded that the number of basins that need to be cleaned have been going down each year. However, this year the number is up again. Councilman Pignatelli commented on the potholes on Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Marcucilli advised that Lakeshore Drive, especially at the intersection of Lakeshore and Mohawk, is on the list to be paved. It had to be pushed to next year because there was not enough funding to pave it this year. Mr. Mangin asked if the streets had to be swept more than usual after the storm. Mr. Marcucilli advised that heavy rain actually cleans the streets and there is less debris that is picked up. Mr. Mangin advised that we could charge the cost of street sweeping after the storm to the clean communities grant. Mr. Marcucilli advised that there have been occasions after a flood event that the DPW has had to have the stormdrains cleaned. He doesn't know if that could be charged to the clean communities grant.

Councilman Pignatelli questioned how successful single source recycling has been. Mr. Marcucilli responded that there has been a 10% increase in recycling. Councilman Pignatelli asked if revenues are increasing. Mr. Kunze responded that they are not because we are getting paid less for recycling. He explained that if the 10% recycling rate remains steady, it will close the gap on the reduction of the funding. Councilman Visconti advised that solid waste dumping fees would decrease even if the revenue is flat. Mr. Marcucilli advised that he has not been getting calls asking when twice per week garbage pickup begins. He thinks single stream recycling every week helps residents. Councilman Pignatelli advised he has received complaints from residents about the garbage men throwing garbage cans. Mr. Marcucilli will speak with the garbage collector.

Discussion turned to Capital. Councilman Visconti explained that the Water and Sewer Committee is working to improve the water system. They have alerted the CFO as to the funding needs. The Council has already had discussion on water and sewer rate increases. Letters were just sent out regarding the sewer rate increase. Councilman Pignatelli questioned if we ever solved the inflow problem at the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Marcucilli responded that it was due to breaches in the manholes and during rain events, the inflow would come into the plants.

Mr. Marcucilli explained that they are trying to put together a regular schedule of vehicle replacements. Mr. Kunze advised there was a period where we did not do a lot of equipment replacement for the DPW but now we are trying to get on a regular schedule. Mr. Marcucilli provided a five-year projected list of equipment needs. He advised that the pickup trucks purchased last year were cheaper than the trucks purchased five years ago.

Councilman Visconti advised that Mr. Marcucilli does a great job every year with the DPW budget. He asked if there was anywhere else Mr. Marcucilli could see saving money. Mr. Marcucilli responded he is always looking at ways to save in the budget. He was hoping to have a full year of use of the brine system to gauge the savings but it seems that every event this year started as rain or the temperatures were too low to apply brine. He advised that he will meet with his department supervisors and see what ideas they have for savings. Councilman Visconti responded that everyone brings ideas to the table.

Mayor Schwager thanked Mr. Marcucilli and his department on how they take care of the roads during snow events. Councilman Pignatelli questioned how the snow budget was after this winter. Mr. Marcucilli responded that in the past, he had been purchasing an average of 11 tons of salt. This year we only purchased 8 ton of salt since January. Unless we are hit very hard in

November and December, we shouldn't have to purchase more salt. Mr. Mangin advised that there is legislation which will allow the use of the snow trust for weather emergencies and debris removal. He asked if the Borough had costs for debris removal due to Sandy. Mr. Kunze responded that it depends how debris is defined. There were a lot of trees that needed to be removed after Sandy unlike the debris after Hurricane Irene. Mr. Marcucilli advised that FEMA paperwork was submitted. The DPW was approved to receive 75% of 92,000 as reimbursement.

POLICE BUDGET:

Councilman Visconti advised there is an increase to Police salaries and wages due to contractual increases. He asked Chief Kasper if there is anything else the Council needs to be aware of such as changes to overtime. Chief Kasper advised there is a question this year about overtime because of retirements. By July, we will be down three officers. It will have an effect on overtime but there will be extra money in salaries and wages to compensate. More likely, the increased overtime will not be as much as the decrease to salaries. Mr. Kunze advised that we don't know if we are going to hire through intergovernmental transfer or if we are going to hire new recruits. We will not know what the salaries will be. Chief Kasper explained that an intergovernmental transfer is for an officer who is working in another town. There is also the possibility of hiring off the RICE list of layoffs. Councilman Pignatelli asked when the Chief anticipates moving forward with hiring. Chief Kasper responded that he will actually start looking at resumes in the next few months. There will be a committee consisting of the Chief, a Sergeant and the PBA representatives to review the resumes and interview candidates. He explained that with an intergovernmental transfer, the salary depends on experience and it is negotiable. However, there would be savings on training costs and they could be put on the road within five weeks. If we hire a new recruit, they spend six months at the Academy then have to spend three months riding with another officer. If we hire an experienced officer, we will have a better feel of what they are capable of. Councilman Pignatelli advised it would be nice to look at the RICE list. Chief Kasper agreed. Mr. Kunze advised it would be ideal to have names to recommend to the Council by July 1st.

Councilman Visconti advised that the vehicles line item has increased from \$52,000 to \$62,000. this is due to increased costs for the new vehicles. Chief Kasper advised that most of the new Police specialty vehicles are at a greater cost. We have been keeping the same number in the budget for the past ten years even though the cost of the vehicles has been going up each year. Councilman Visconti asked the Chief how he likes the Tahoes. Chief Kasper advised they are great and he has no complaints.

Mayor Schwager commented that she thought the Borough no longer had special police and she questioned why there was a line item. Chief Kasper responded that one dispatcher is qualified as a special police officer. They haven't used her in that capacity but they could so he left the line item in the budget. Councilwoman Marcalus commented on the increase to guns and ammunitions. She questioned if the increase was due to the requirement of officers to qualify. Chief Kasper explained that last year, he replaced some of the weapons that were ten years old. He explained that the night sights wear out. It costs \$85 to replace the night sight. However, a new weapon cost \$400 and there is \$240 trade-in. So it was more cost effective to get new weapons. Chief Kasper advised that 30 guns were replaced last year and the remainder will be replaced this year. Mr. Kunze explained that there is a capital request for the weapon replacements.

Councilman Pignatelli questioned where the security cameras were going to be put. Chief Kasper responded they are all over the building in the Police Department and the Court. Councilman Pignatelli commented that the Judge had requested better lighting or a camera outside. Chief

Kasper responded that is what brought this on. Mayor Schwager questioned the solar power message board. Chief Kasper responded that it is for replacement of the current board which is 15 years old. The newer ones are more cost effective and use less power.

Mr. Kunze explained that the Police budget has been held down for a long time but once in a while something pops up like this year with the increase to the vehicle line item. There are a lot of changes that are IT related. He questioned if the digital cameras requested were replacements or new ones. Chief Kasper responded that one is a replacement and the others are new cameras. Mr. Kunze explained that there are costs associated with new officers such as medical and psychological testing and uniform costs. Chief Kasper advised that the psychological test costs \$1500 and the physical costs \$750. He explained if they hire a new recruit that needs to attend the Academy, there are increased equipment costs. Councilman Pignatelli asked if the Chief hopes to hire three officers from the RICE list. Chief Kasper responded that it depends on how it turns out with the qualifications and the interview process. Mayor Schwager questioned if we have to hire from a civil service town. Chief Kasper responded that you do if there is an intergovernmental transfer but not if you hire from the RICE list.

Mr. Mangin commented that \$50,000 was transferred in to overtime and that was for costs related to storm Sandy. If we take that money out, then Police overtime came in where we budgeted last year. We will get money back from FEMA. Chief Kasper explained that FEMA calculated costs differently this storm and even allowed the Chief's time to be included which they never did before.

Councilman Visconti questioned if there is anything else the Chief can do to save money. Chief Kasper responded that he has cut all the fat out of the budget. The Police budget has come a long way. Mayor Schwager questioned how many officers this budget is based on. Chief Kasper responded it is based on 25. Mr. Kunze confirmed it is based on 25 including the Chief. The Council thanked the Chief.

There was no public present to comment.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Visconti, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Visconti.

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk
March 27, 2013

Mayor Linda H. Schwager

Date Approved