

BUDGET MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mayor Ganz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski read the statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Etlar and Deputy Mayor Weinstein, Councilmembers Caan and McCarthy.

Also present: Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski, Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski, Attorney Lustgarten and CFO Eccleston.

Police:

Chief Rose, Captain Cook, Captain Serrao, Lt. Yirce and Officer Cannici were present. They made a powerpoint presentation. Chief Rose stated that Fair Lawn is a diverse community in northern Bergen County. Though only approximately five square miles, the community is home to almost 32,000 residents and is a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

Chief Rose said there were approximately 4,700 public school students attending one high school, two middle schools, and six elementary schools.

The Fair Lawn Police Department has been providing dedicated and effective police services to the Borough of Fair Lawn since 1930. These services include patrol, investigations, traffic, and more recently, community policing.

Chief Rose spoke about staffing and the average in Bergen County is 2.78 officers per 1,000 residents. The number of officers per 1,000 residents in the Borough of Fair Lawn is 1.80. However, he felt that it is now understood that the "Officers Per Thousand" rule is a starting point and is impacted by a number of factors which are the following:

Daytime population: Fair Lawn's industry counteracts the normally expected drop in daytime population that is the norm for suburban bedroom communities.

Location: Fair Lawn is bordered by Paterson and Paramus. Of the 237 cities in New Jersey over 10,000 residents, Paterson ranks 7th in reported violent crime and 6th in murder. Paramus ranks 53rd in violent crime.

Fair Lawn Commons: In 2000, Fair Lawn Commons added 340 apartments to the Borough. No additional police officers were added.

Shopping: Some of the Borough business in town have a dramatic effect on the required staffing. Both Pathmark and Shop Rite draw aggressively from populations outside of Fair Lawn. In 2004, the Fair Lawn Police Department responded to Pathmark 129 times and to Shop Rite 195 times.

Size: According to a well respected Fair Lawn resident's website, Fair Lawn is the 18th largest municipality in New Jersey and the 4th largest in Bergen County.

Proximity to Highways: Fair Lawn has two State highways running through it, Route 4 and Route 208. A significant by-product of Route 4, is its use as a major route between New York City and the City of Paterson, providing a traffic route for gang activity, terrorism and narcotics incidents.

Chief Rose spoke about things that can effect manpower. In 1990, the domestic violence law changed significantly. What used to be a 15 minute "drive the offender to their mother's house to cool off" detail now often results in an arrest and takes significantly longer. Of the thirteen reported domestic violence incidents, in January 2005, the longest took six hours with the average domestic violence call taking 2.6 hours. He pointed out that a domestic violence detail requires a minimum of two officers. There were 168 domestic violence incidents reported in 2004.

Chief Rose stated there were other significant facts. There are five northern counties of New Jersey that have been identified by the Federal Department of Homeland Security as an Urban Area Security Initiative. He stated that along with everything else, they presently have seven officers out on disability. The nature of their work has become more violent and the actors they encounter have become more violent.

In 1983, patrol staffing consisted of 30 officers, 6 Sergeants, and 3 Lieutenants, twenty-two years later, the staffing is the same. Chief Rose felt the residents of Fair Lawn have a right to be safe in their homes and as they go about their activities in town. To continue to ensure that, the Fair Lawn Police Department requires adequate staffing. He felt that balancing the significant budgetary constraints with the very real needs of the community, the department needs to add a minimum of six officers. Chief Rose stated that despite the addition of six officers, the Fair Lawn Police Department would still be significantly under the Federal, State, and County norm. However, in attempting to do more with less, the addition of six officers would greatly increase their ability to directly focus on the community's quality of life concerns.

Mayor Ganz thanked them for a very informative presentation.

Attorney Lustgarten asked if there were other statistics available from other towns such as calls per officer. Chief Rose said it depended on the towns. He will get the figures but they have to be sure what the calls are because some towns put every call down. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated the Chief's proposal would be add six officers. Chief Rose said he would add four to Community Policing and two in the Detective Bureau. He suggested putting four in the academy this session and two in the winter session. A discussion following regarding the costs of hiring additional officers and the number of current officers.

Mayor Ganz asked Chief Rose if he could cut overtime. Chief Rose stated that this year

the department had five officers leave. The officers keep getting hurt. If he had the additional six officers then he could relocate the officers which would cut down on overtime. His goal is to cut it as much as possible.

The Council questioned each line item and Chief Rose explained the details for each amount.

521-20-51 Medical Service: This line item was reduced from \$7,200 to \$7,196.

Capital:

Traffic Devices: Chief Rose explained they would like to purchase a Traffic County/Speed Device that costs \$1,000. This item would count vehicles and their speeds, providing a written report documenting the results. It can be used in an area without the local drivers being aware the traffic situation is being evaluated. He would also like to purchase a Speed Display that costs \$4,000. This item is a smaller speed display device that would supplement their present trailer mounted traffic display unit. This unit also provides limited reports. It can be mounted to any existing sign or pole and easily be moved from place to place and it can be used in locations where the trailer cannot safely be used. Chief Rose said he would like to expedite getting this equipment.

Addition to the Police Phone System: Chief Rose stated the renovations to the Municipal Building that involves the police space will require the addition and relocation of phones.

Breath Testing Equipment: Chief Rose explained that after extensive delays due to testing and court challenges, New Jersey State Police are phasing out the present breathalyzer, of which the department has two. The project that Bergen County will be phased into the new unit, the Alcotest 7110, around October - November of 2005. Once they have done that, they have advised that they will no longer support the old breathalysers. He felt this item could be deferred until the Spring of 2006.

Harley Davidson Motorcycle Police Package: Chief Rose explained this would be to purchase two motorcycles and this is the second request. He felt the use of motorcycles would enhance their ability to enforce traffic laws, which include moving violations, and parking violations. Motorcycles also allow more patrol mobility. Harley Davison also offers a buy back program where the motorcycles can be exchanged after two years at little or no cost. Mayor Ganz thought that it may be funded through the County.

Podium and Sound System/ Paper Folding Machine: Chief Rose stated the department holds many events at which police officers as well as invited guest speakers such as elected officials or member of the general public. This presents a more professional appearance, provides the speakers a place to keep their notes and allows them to be heard.

The paper folding machine would be used by the Community Policing since they often do mass mailings which would free up their time for more pressing duties. This machine could be shared with other departments in the building.

LED Light Bar with Signal Master and Controller: Chief Rose explained that this project is a program of purchasing five light bars a year for three years. The current light bars have become a problem due to the electrical draw on the vehicles charging system. The new LED light bars are one quarter of the draw which will help the vehicle perform better. According to our mechanic's LED light bars reduce maintenance time and costs. The LED light bars produce more light which improves vehicle visibility and safety. Mayor Ganz asked if this could be deferred until next year. Chief Rose felt there were issues with the older light bars.

Security Trunk Box for Ford Crown Victoria: Chief Rose explained that this box would hold weapons. It is a steel box with a large drawer that is bolted into the trunk to store tactical weapons and ammunition. It would be used for all cars, marked and unmarked. It secures weapons better than mounting them in the passenger compartment. Should a vehicle be stolen, which has happened in Fair Lawn, it prevents or delays access to weapons stored in the vehicle. He would like to purchase five units per year for five years. Councilmember McCarthy stated that he and Deputy Mayor Etlar were going on a field trip to check out equipment and asked if they could take a look at it. Chief Rose said they should stop by and he will show them what he is talking about.

Police Cars: Chief Rose stated this item is for five police cars. Mayor Ganz said they would purchase the cars through the BCIA.

Point of Sale / Service Cash Register for Records Room: Officer Cannici was present and explained that the Police Department currently uses a 10 - 12 year old register. Parts and supplies are becoming hard to find. A POS system will track and break down all of the monies received in the Records Room, including reports, background checks, parking permits, fingerprint cards and firearms. This is achieved at the time of service and not entered subsequently by personnel assigned to Records. It would generate end of month reports that go to Finance. Deputy Mayor Weinstein asked how much labor is currently used. Officer Cannici stated between 8 -9 hours a month if it balances out. Many times he is called in to assist.

CDMA Digital Computer Modem for Police Car Laptops: Officer Cannici explained that the technology for the current CDPD modems installed in mobile laptops in patrol cars is no longer supported by Verizon. The inability to have stable communication from Headquarters and the County to the officers on the road leads to decreased officer safety.

Computer and Software program for enhancing still photos, video and digital: Chief Rose stated this includes a two day training seminar and traveling cost for two officers, plus a

one year maintenance agreement. This equipment will allow the Detectives to digitally enhance video pictures, still pictures and other photographs. Currently any department with equipment lacks the current technology to do the job properly. This equipment will enable them to get quick pictures of criminal suspects and or do flyers or email pictures of victims or missing persons. This equipment would also be shared with the Fair Lawn Television. Chief Rose did feel that it could be deferred.

Municipal Building Security System: Chief Rose explained that this project would be digital recording and multiplexer, ethernet ready audio and remote network viewing. It would replace the present camera and add more to allow all of the building to be monitored. This project would also replace locking mechanisms, changing the whole buildings exterior locking system to card reader locks with exit motion detectors and push bars. He felt the present building security is antiquated, with a video system that only covers part of the building.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT TO WORK SESSION - Upon motion of Councilmember McCarthy and a second by Councilmember Caan the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The Undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

David L. Ganz, Mayor

Councilmember Allan Caan

Deputy Mayor Martin Etler

Councilmember Owen McCarthy

Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein