

## BUDGET MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2005

Mayor Ganz called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.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.

Deputy Mayor Etlar questioned the amount the Borough spends on cellphones. He noticed they spend \$24,000 a year which he felt it was too much. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she had her secretary find a better plan. The new business plan will lower the monthly bill. A lengthy discussion followed regarding how many phones and who gets the phones.

Mayor Ganz asked for a report by Tuesday on replacing the radios. He stated that the budget would have to be introduced by March 8 in order to qualify for extraordinary aid. CFO Eccleston stated it would have to be done this Tuesday night so that he can get the document to Trenton.

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that Superintendent Conte had given her a breakdown on the safety items. CFO Eccleston passed out new sheets to the Council.

### **Fire Prevention:**

Fire Marshal Bender was present.

521-20-13 Office Supplies - This line item was reduced from \$1,200 to \$500.

521-20-15 Office Equipment Maintenance - This line item was reduced from \$1,400 to \$1,100.

521-20-16 Printing & Stationery - This line item was reduced from \$700 to \$300.

521-20-23 Auto, Truck & Equipment Maintenance - This line item was reduced from \$1,200 to \$900.

521-20-28 Contractual Service - This line item was reduced from \$1,000 to \$800.

### **Capital:**

**Camcorder:** Fire Marshall Bender explained this item would be used for recording Fire Code violations and fire scenes. The film record would be available for presentation in court or at Board of Appeals hearing. Film records of fire scenes are provided to the County Prosecutor or Police in matters of suspicious fires and arson investigation. He felt this camcorder would be important in trying to reconstruct the scenario used in investigating a fire. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated they should defer this purchase until next year.

Automatic External Defibrillator: Fire Marshall Bender stated this item would be purchased for cars driven by himself and the Fire Inspector. The AED's are used to reverse cardiac arrest via delivery of an electric shock. He and the Fire Inspector are certified EMT's and have used defibrillators for several years. They both have several successes with CPR and AED on the Ambulance Corps, at fires and on the street. Mayor Ganz asked that the Council consider purchasing the defibrillator. He asked that it be discussed further in the budget wrap up. Deputy Mayor Etlar stated he was against this. Deputy Mayor Weinstein asked that they check with the AM Rotary. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski felt it was a project they would likely support. Mayor Ganz asked that they get an opinion from the Prosecutor about the camcorder and he asked for the real cost of it.

**Fire Department:**

Chief Collins and Deputy Chief Osback were present.

521-10-02 Salaries and Wages: This line item was reduced from \$25,000 to \$19,000.

521-20-17 Department Supplies: This line item was reduced from \$5,500 to \$4,500.

521-20-31 Miscellaneous: This line item was reduced from \$30,000. to \$28,000.

521-20-32 Clothing, Uniforms, Shoe: This line item was reduced from \$76,000 to \$71,500.

521-20-37 Insurance: This line item was reduced from \$25,000 to \$21,000.

521-20-43 Retirement: This line item was reduced from \$21,800 to \$20,600.

521-20-45 Training: This line item was reduced from \$4,000 to \$3,500.

521-20-78 Radio Service: This line item was reduced from \$4,000 to \$3,000.

521-20-76 Expenses: This line item was reduced from \$1,200 to \$1,100.

521-20-47 Death Benefits: This line item was increased from \$7,400 to \$8,100.

**Capital:**

Communication Equipment: Chief Collins explained this is for radio and pager replacements. The equipment being replaced under this request are Motorola Minitor II models which are eight years old. The annual cost of maintenance is expected to exceed the cost of replacement. He felt at this time failing to replace this equipment may result in the current expense budget maintenance costs exceeding this capital budget request.

Councilmember Caan asked for the cost of the radios.

Emergency Generators: Chief Collins explained that during the blackout of 2002 deficiencies were identified in the emergency communities ability to provide emergency service and more importantly sheltering capabilities to the families of emergency responders. This funding will complete the installation of emergency generators in the fire houses as well as Rescue and EMS.

Hydrant Markers: Chief Collins stated that it is very difficult to identify fire hydrants following snow removal. This pole will extend five feet above the hydrant. Deputy Chief Osback stated that the poles are made of fiberglass and will spring back if hit. Chief Collins stated that it will not whip back and forth. The Borough has 2,200 hydrants and the figure he submitted may go down. Mayor Ganz asked that he get back to the Council with the correct amount.

Replacement 970 Aerial Unit: Chief Collins explained that this truck was originally purchased in 1976 and was refurbished in 1991. The truck is now 28 years old and is due for replacement. Deputy Mayor Etlar asked why it had to be replaced now. Chief Collins stated according to NFPA guidelines after 15 years the truck has to be refurbished or replaced. Deputy Mayor Etlar asked if the truck is unsafe or unusable. Chief Collins explained that the trucks get tested every year. Deputy Mayor Weinstein asked what happens to the truck. Chief Collins stated they sell it to a town in a southern state where they don't abide by the regulations. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated they are happy to get a truck like this.

Thermal Imaging Camera: Chief Collins stated that currently they have one unit that was donated to the department in 1998, which has been sent to Germany for repair. The preliminary estimate for the repair is \$3,000. The proposed equipment is lighter, uses DVD camera batteries which produces a clearer image and is more user friendly to firefighters working in a hostile environment. Deputy Mayor Etlar asked why they would need this camera. Chief Collins stated it would enhance their search efforts.

New Equipment: Chief Collins explained that this is the Captain's budget. Mayor Ganz asked for a list. Chief Collins stated he will supply a list to the Council. Generally what goes in this budget are gloves, hoses, helmets, tools, fans, etc. Mayor Ganz stated it is approximately \$7,000 for each fire company. Deputy Mayor Etlar wanted a detailed list. Chief Collins explained that the Captains are not voted in until later so the budget will not be done until March or later. Councilmember McCarthy felt that \$7,000 per fire house is not much money for these volunteers. It is a small amount for what they do. Councilmember Caan felt that the Council should just put this amount in the Capital Budget and should not penalize the Fire Department.

Mayor Ganz asked the Council to consider purchasing the new fire truck 970. He stated that the truck will take 10 to 12 months to build, currently it will cost between \$875,000 and \$900,000. The price is scheduled to increase by \$26,000. Deputy Mayor Etlar wanted to know how much money the Borough currently owes. Mayor Ganz felt they should decide to purchase it now or next year.

### **Ambulance:**

Ambulance President Schoenfeld was present.

551-20-17 Department Supplies: This line item was reduced from \$12,500 to \$10,000.

551-20-19 Department Equipment Maintenance: This line item was reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,900.

551-20-32 Clothing, Uniforms, Shoe: This line item was reduced from \$22,125 to \$20,000.

551-20-37 Insurance: This line item was reduced from \$7,500 to \$6,900.

Capital:

Safety Equipment: Deputy Mayor Etler wanted this spelled out for exactly what they want to purchase. President Schoenfeld stated they would be purchasing jackets that cost \$330 each and takes six weeks to get.

Tank Lowering System: President Schoenfeld stated that two to three members currently have to lift the heavy oxygen tanks into the ambulances. With this system the oxygen tank would fit in the bracket and be raised by machine. She stated that the tanks weigh around 200 lbs. She said it is a new system and felt it would lower the chance of getting injured. Deputy Mayor Weinstein felt that since these are volunteers they should help them. Councilmember McCarthy asked how often does the oxygen have to get changed. President Schoenfeld stated approximately every two weeks.

Radio Equipment: President Schoenfeld stated this is the scheduled replacement of worn out radio equipment.

**Municipal Clerk:**

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski were present.

515-20-33 Legal and Advertising: This line item was reduced from \$13,500 to \$13,000.

515-20-38 Election Expense: This line item was increased from \$13,500 to \$21,000.

515-20-39 Codification Expenses: This line item was reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,700.

Capital:

Fax Machine and Digital Recorder: Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski explained that this equipment needs to be replaced. Mayor Ganz asked that the fax machine be moved downstairs to the mail room.

**Manager:**

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski was present.

513-20-34 Copying: This line item was reduced from \$7,400 to \$5,500.

**Finance:**

CFO Eccleston was present.

515-20-14 New Office Equipment: This line item was reduced from \$300 to \$250.

515-20-15 Office Equipment Maintenance: This line item was reduced from \$4,000 to \$3,800.

515-20-28 Contractual Service: This line item was reduced from \$4,000 to \$2,000.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Councilmember McCarthy the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC  
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The Undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

David L. Ganz, Mayor

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Councilmember Allan Caan

Deputy Mayor Martin Etlar

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Councilmember Owen McCarthy

Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein