

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 – 4:05 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter LaCicero, presiding

ROLL CALL: Council Members Wenzel, Zalom, Stogdill, Lamb, Horan and Filippone
Council Members Wenzel and Lamb were not present

Also present: Christopher F. Parlow, Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk
Donnelly Amico, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Michele Burk, Chief Financial Officer
Colin Grant, Chief of Police

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the Mayor and Council President Zalom were running late so she was going to preside over the meeting until they get here.

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Notice of this meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. Public Notice was given to the Ocean County Observer, Asbury Park Press and the Ocean County Star. Notice was posted on the Municipal bulletin board and the Municipal Website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilwoman Filippone led us in the Salute to the Flag

BUDGET HEARING: POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Parlow provided the Mayor and Council with a budget summary and detail of all salary and wage and other expense accounts within the Police Department. Mr. Parlow reported that the salary request is based upon the current contract with the PBA and Dispatcher Unions.

Mr. Parlow reported that the Police Department has 12 full-time officers consisting of the Chief, four Sergeants and seven Patrolmen. There are four shifts with three officers on each shift and there is also a full-time year round Class II Officer employed to cover the eighth shift. The Chief has no requested any changes to this schedule. The salary and wages account is up almost ten percent due to the agreed upon cost of living adjustment and the step increases due a number of the officer who have not reached the top of the wage guide. There are currently two officers who still have three more steps and four officers who still have two more steps.

Mr. Parlow reported that in the 2005 and 2006 budgets, the Police Department actually had a significant decrease due to a number of retirements within the department.

Council President Zalom arrived at 4:11 pm.

Mr. Parlow reported that there is an increase in the police overtime budget due to the higher hourly rates and not because of increase hours. The Police Department has actually decreased their overtime hours last year.

Chief Grant stated that even \$70,000 is stretching it a bit but with the grants we receive from the Prosecutor's Office the department should be okay.

Mr. Parlow stated that the office personnel's overtime has a slight decrease. The summer specials remain the same as does the crossing guards.

Chief Grant stated that the department will run the same crossing program this summer with using the Class I Specials as Crossing Guards for certain streets without increasing his Class I staff.

Mayor LaCicero arrived at 4:18pm.

Mr. Parlow stated that the Salaries and Wages for the crossing guards has remained the same. The crossing guards are used specifically for the school crossing Monday thru Friday.

Chief Grant stated that there are three permanent Class II Officers, one full-time and two part-time and their productivity justify the expense.

Mr. Parlow stated that the Shift Differential is contractual and the sick time buy back is also contractual. There is \$2,500.00 that is budgeted for special events/emergencies.

Chief Grant stated that is also for the mandatory training for Class I and II's.

Mr. Parlow stated that the police department is requesting the same amount in the other expense budget as 2008. Mr. Parlow also wanted to make clear that the Police Department has to put the police car purchases in operating budget and can not purchase the vehicles through the capital account. That is very important to understand because others department do not have to show their capital purchases in the operating accounts. The Chief should be given credit for coming in with a flat budget.

Chief Grant provided the Mayor and Council with his capital item requests. The list included a Live-Scan Fingerprint machine, the CAD System, Motorola Radios for the police cars and the Electronic Traffic Sign.

Chief Grant stated that this will be the second year he is requesting a new CAD system.

Mr. Parlow stated that he has put in a request to purchase these items through a federal homeland security stimulus grant.

The Chief stated that the fingerprint scan machine will allow the department to be connected with the FBI for identity.

Mayor LaCicero questioned whether we could get grant money to fund the Class II officer.

Mr. Parlow stated that he has not seen any grants such as the COPS fast program that would fund additional police officers.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned why he would need these certain type of radios.

Chief Grant explained that he has one of the radios in his car. When the police were in pursuit of a bank robber from Brick Township the only reason why the department was able to know what the vehicle description was and which way the vehicle was heading was because of the radio in his car being connected to the surrounding towns without any delay. This is really a safety issue above all else.

Chief Grant stated that he is asking for a new CAD System again this year. The current CAD System was great at the time but now everyone has gone digital.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUDGET

Chief Grant stated that the Emergency Management budget is pretty much the same as last year. The Borough receives a lot of help from the County 966 Program.

A Motion was made by Council President Zalom to adjourn the Budget Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone. All were in favor. The motion passed. The Budget Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

CERTIFICIATION

I, Christopher F. Parlow, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby attest these to be a true copy of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the **18th** day of **February 2009**

Christopher F. Parlow
Municipal Clerk