

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE (minutes)
BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Wednesday, February 17, 2010 – 6:02 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter LaCicero, presiding

ROLL CALL: Council Members Borowski, Zalom, Stogdill, Lamb, Horan and Filippone
Council Members Borowski was absent.

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

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 Star and the Press of Atlantic City. Notice was posted on the Municipal bulletin board and the Municipal Website.

BUDGET HEARING: Public Safety-Police, Municipal Court & Fire/Recreation

Municipal Court

Mrs. Boettger stated that the Court is different from the other departments because they are mandated by the State Office of the Courts. She stated that this past year was an exceptional year for the Lavallette Court but the numbers do speak for themselves. Mr. Pascarella, the Municipal Prosecutor, has come up with some creative options to alleviate numerous court sessions by splitting the calendar into two different time slots. The first court session is at 4:30 pm and the second is at 7:30 pm which allows us to complete at least 120 cases per session. Also, as of January 1st the State requires that the local municipalities settle the indictables in our courts and the State is requesting that we do not take any more contempt payments which allowed us to collect \$100 each contempt fee.

Councilman Stogdill arrived at 6:10 pm.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that it seems like we are going to do all the work and the State is getting all the money.

Mrs. Boettger stated that we hired a new deputy court administrator this year which saved us \$10,000. If you look at the copy of Court budget she is requesting a stipend of \$1,500.00 for her additional call outs which has not been raised since 2002.

Councilman Lamb stated that he is not happy with the State collecting our fees and we are receiving less in revenue and have more work to do.

Mr. Parlow stated that until Mrs. Boettger gets written order requiring us to not collect the contempt fee he would recommend that she still collect it.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned if the Borough should do some type of resolution opposing this new system.

Mr. Parlow stated that he would take care of that.

Council President Zalom arrived at 6:18 pm.

Councilwoman Filippone asked Beth to add that information into her next monthly report so she could inform the public.

Mrs. Boettger also stated that in her budget she has asked that the Public Defender's line item be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 because of the excess amount of cases she has now. The Public Defender use to come only four times a year and now because of so many defendants requesting a public defender she comes six to eight times a year.

Council President Zalom stated that she attended a court session and she was very impressed with how very well organized it was.

Mayor LaCicero asked if Council had any other questions for Mrs. Boettger. No one had any other questions.

The Mayor thanked Mrs. Boettger for coming.

Police Department

Mr. Parlow stated that the Police Department had a Sergeant retire in 2009. The total salaries are going from \$1,000,077 in 2009 to \$1,035,090. He stated that Council should keep in mind that the department is still very young and they are still making their way up the step chart. The Chief wants to keep his overtime maintained at \$70,000. The dispatchers as well as the office staff are contractual and their overtime remains the same as last year. The summer specials line item is increased to \$100,000.

Chief Grant stated that is because of more police officers that are on the street for the traffic detail and bicycle safety.

Mr. Parlow stated that the shift differential is contractual. The Chief is able to maintain his overtime because most of the officers are taking advantage of the sick time buyback which keeps them from using their sick time which creates less overtime coverage. The Chief has added one more all year round Class II due to the retirement of a Sergeant.

Mr. Parlow stated that the Chief should take a look at the \$25,000 for training and maybe he could decrease that some.

Chief Grant stated that he likes to keep that line open until he knows where he's at.

Councilman Lamb stated that the total of the entire budget is up 6%.

Chief Grant stated that 80% of it is contractual.

Michele Burk stated that this is the first year of longevity of the newly hired so that affects it also.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned how much does the training cost for one officer?

Chief Grant stated that they get minimum wage so he would say roughly \$4,000 per officer.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned if we need to shave a little that can happen?

Chief Grant replied yes.

Chief Grant replied that this year he has request the purchase of two new vehicles. He usually asks for a one car every year but he really needs another SUV and one sedan. He stated that it is not cost effective to keep repairing these vehicles. This year especially with all this snow the department could really use another SUV.

Councilman Horan questioned what type of SUV he is looking for?

Chief Grant stated that they have a Dodge Durango already so he probably would look at getting another one.

Councilman Horan questioned if he looked into the Ford Edge packages?

Chief Grant stated that he did look into those and was told they are not a pursuit rated vehicle and with all of the equipment that needs to go in it they are too compacted.

Councilman Horan questioned if he purchased his ammunition in bulk?

Chief Grant replied yes and it is .45 caliber.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned the police equipment line and what that entailed?

Chief Grant stated that entailed a lot of repairs for our bicycles, computers, alcatel which needs repair all the time. We also used that line for the purchase of a radar gun, pepper spray, seminars and conferences.

Mayor LaCicero stated he thinks they have all they need.

Fire Department

Mr. Parlow stated that the Fire Chief is away and he thinks the budget is pretty basic. If anyone wants an explanation on any of it we can schedule another session when the Chief gets back.

Mayor LaCicero excused himself at 7:00 pm.

Recreation

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the budget looks fine. We cover what we have to. The bus trips look a little high.

Michele Burk stated that the bus trips have gone up a bit.

Mr. Parlow stated that you gave up some of your budget for the purchase of the bus so your budget is really paying for a portion of the bus.

Mr. Parlow stated that the biggest issue this year is the summer concerts. We have to fund the concerts a 100% which is roughly \$10,000 because we did not receive the grant from the County this year. Also, we spent \$6,500 last year on fireworks which was mostly from donations from businesses; unfortunately, we do not have any donations for 2010 fireworks so we have to fund the \$4,500.00

Council President Zalom stated that Gary and Chris are looking into some roll top curbing for the basketball courts so we can maybe use them in the winter as an ice rink. Mr. Parlow will be discussing it at the County meeting tomorrow.

Councilwoman Filippone questioned whether this would be a liability with someone tripping over it when they play basketball?

Mr. Parlow stated that they would be putting on the perimeter of the court but he will see if Scibal can come out and check it over.

ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Filippone to adjourn the Budget Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Stogdill. Vote: All of Council was in Favor. The Motion passed.

The Budget Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

CERTIFICATION

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 held on the 17th day of **February 2010**

Christopher F. Parlow
Municipal Clerk