

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – 4:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter LaCicero, presiding

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

Also present: Christopher F. Parlow, Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk
Donnelly Amico, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Michele Burk, Chief Financial Officer
Gary Schlosser, Supt. of Public Works
Diana Turrian, Public Works Secretary

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 Wenzel led us in the Salute to the Flag

BUDGET HEARING: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Gary Schlosser, Superintendent of Public Works stated that Public Works Salary and Wages has been reduced by roughly \$9,400 from 2008. He reported that the request for salaries for seasonal employees remains the same.

Mr. Schlosser reported that the Building and Grounds remains the same as 2008. The Public Works Department accomplished a lot of work this year. The department performed a number of renovations to the Public Works building and some housekeeping at the Borough Hall. The department is looking to put air conditioning in the Public Works buildings.

Mr. Parlow recommended that any kind of energy upgrades or renovations should be held off until the Energy Audit is completed. The Borough should receive fund to pursue efficiency upgrades. He recommended leaving the Building and Grounds budget the way it is for now.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that even if we do the air conditioning before we receive the money we should be able to provide the documentation to prove we just installed it.

Mr. Parlow stated we already received the proposals and we are in the first batch of approvals. There was one item within the proposal that was in question. The lowest bidder placed an exception to the scope of work. The project calls for completion to be within 60 days. The proposal was for 82 days. The consultant firm to the Board of Public Utilities now requires a letter from the

Borough stating that we are in agreement to the exception. The contract should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Schlosser stated Councilman Horan asked him to look into LED Street Lighting. He called Rumsey Electric and they are getting some prices to me.

Gary stated the Public Works Other Expense budget is down for 2009 a total of \$1,000.00 and Schedule C is the same at \$4,000.00.

Mayor LaCicero questioned whether the Bulkhead Project from the County is included in that \$4,000.00?

Mr. Parlow stated that we already encumbered that money last year's budget in the amount of \$19,100.

Mr. Schlosser stated that the amount for the Landfill remains the same.

Mr. Parlow stated that the landfill costs are just a pass through and a dependant upon the amount of solid waste collected. The budget for landfill cost will depend on the tipping rates charged.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated the only way to save on landfill costs is to improve your recycling. We are hoping to accomplish that this year. We are in the process of establishing a recycling task force with the Code Enforcement Office.

Mr. Schlosser stated that garbage and recycling items remain the same with road repairs at \$11,100.

Mayor LaCicero stated that the amount recycled looks significantly lower then that of the previous years.

Diana Turrian stated that not all of the tonnage reports for last year have been received and that that figure will go up.

Michele Burk stated that the landfill tonnage is down by 200 tons.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that we get credited for the tonnage fees and the County issues us a check in the spring.

Mr. Schlosser stated that we might have to increase the road repairs for the two hour parking signs on the highway.

Mr. Parlow stated that we do not have an answer from the State yet regarding the request for two hour parking. He would not even commit to installing the signs until approval is received from the State.

Council President Zalom arrived at 4:20 pm.

Mr. Schlosser stated that Gas & Oil is at \$105,000 this year. Last year we totaled \$104,450 with a transfer in of \$20,000 in mid-year.

Ms. Turrian stated that the department also added on the Construction Department and charge that department separately. We do not see any other option right now with the cost of fuel going up and down frequently.

Councilman Horan stated maybe we should look into hybrids.

Mr. Schlosser stated that maintenance of Borough equipment is reduced by \$15,000.

Mr. Schlosser stated that they would like to keep the Beach/Boardwalk Ordinance open in case of any storm emergencies.

Mr. Parlow stated that the Borough has traditional kept a bond ordinance open in the event that a storm hits and emergency repairs are needed.

Mayor LaCicero questioned if the IP impacted the budget.

Mr. Schlosser stated that we still need some fencing and we need to remove some more sand but that is about it. Our major concern right now is getting the boardwalk project completed.

Mr. Schlosser stated that they would like to purchase a 2010 Refuse Hauler to help collecting garbage on the boardwalk to eliminate all garbage complaints on Ocean Front. This vehicle is electric driven and not gas operated.

Council President Zalom stated that we do need that vehicle to take care of the receptacles in the summertime especially.

Mr. Parlow stated that the funds for this vehicle have been budgeted for in past years.

Mr. Schlosser stated that they would like to purchase a JetVac for \$42,000. He stated that the State Statute requires the cleaning of the sewer.

Michele Burk stated that a letter already went to USDA so we are ready to go with this.

Mayor LaCicero stated that this is definitely a good possibility for this year.

Mr. Schlosser stated that the Police Department needs a new A/C handler and it can not wait any longer. They have been doing the breathalyzer tests outside because of the leaks in the handler so we definitely need to move on this.

We also are looking at the purchase of a Bucket Truck for the Electric Utility. This was also on last year's capital list. The department is also requesting the purchase of electric meters which would enable the electric meters to be read with the same system as the Water/Sewer.

Mr. Parlow stated that he looking into the availability of federal stimulus money for electric improvements and energy conservation. He stated that he has spoken with Rumsey Electric about a new metering system using time-of-use meters, which would be paid for using federal funding. There is a meeting scheduled with Congressman Adler's office on February 20th to go over federal funding sources.

Mr. Parlow stated that he will be receiving costs estimates for the job.

Mayor LaCicero stated the overall the Public Works budgets for Salary and Wages and Other expenses are down. He state that the department is looking to fill two vacancies in the department and are looking for an additional part-time employee for the Recycling Center.

Mr. Parlow reported that the sewer rates need to be increased again. The sewer revenues are not sufficient to meet expenditures. He stated that the rate ordinance needs to be placed on the March 9 meeting agenda. He also reported that due to recent energy purchases made through our new contract the electric rates can be reduced.

Councilwoman Wenzel requested that we change the language as far as the capital infiltration and the water surcharge.

At this time, Mayor LaCicero opened the floor for Public Comment

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Lachlan Cameron, 115 President Avenue requested just the total in the Salaries and Wages?

Mr. Parlow stated the total in Salaries and Wages was \$1,405,900.

Mayor LaCicero closed the floor to the public and asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

A Motion was made by Council President Zalom to adjourn the Budget Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone. All members were in favor. The Motion passed. The Meeting was adjourned at 5:01 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 11th day of **February 2009**

Christopher F. Parlow
Municipal Clerk