

February 2, 2016

A workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on February 2, 2016.

Council President Wayne Jacobus called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present in Mayor Holemans absence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Jacobus, Councilman Lorenzo.

ABSENT: Mayor Holeman and Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

Tonight's meeting is being held for discussion on the 2016 Municipal Budget. Amy Maronpot our Chief Financial Officer is here tonight and Council President Jacobus turned the meeting over to her.

Amy said she is going to summarize first. There are not a lot of changes in the budget. The biggest changes that we have are the garbage. I had to go up \$15,000 in that line item. We are going into a new contract this year and based on the quotes we received it is going up. We rebid the contract and are waiting to see what the cost will be. I based this on the three months that we know. It looks like this will be about the increase.

Another increase is in Other Insurance. Workers Comp went up. Every time they audit us which is every year, they find something new to come at us. Last year it went up \$3,200 the rate also increased.

Group Insurance went down because our rates went up but the employee contributions offset that increase.

RVRSA went down \$17,000 based on the figures they gave us for this year. The PERS went up \$6,000. That was due to an employee that should have been put into the pension years ago and wasn't and we will have penalties because of that.

This being said, we can go line by line but I wanted to give you a quick overview of the process.

Amy said that in the S & W accounts she increased by 3% which is what has been consistent with the past 5 years. That can change if you want it to change. This is just preliminary so I had figures. Mayor & Council O & E has remained the same.

Clerk S & W is the 3% increase. Clerk O & E is the same, because Deb Evans and Deb Devery will both be taking classes. Also when Deb Evans is out the other Debbie will be covering for her. We had enough money in this account so I left it as it was. Two of our computers need to be replaced. We have the web site up keep and we need some new chairs in the Clerks office.

Annual Audit went up - that is a contractual increase. Legal O & E we had some money left over from last year but this year there is a 2% increase for the Attorney and there is also the potential for the RVRSA litigation and tax appeals. I didn't want to reduce for these reasons so I left the same amount in there.

Engineering I did not decrease. We have a few projects for the playground and also the work that will be done with the traffic light/pedestrian crossing out here at Franklin Road and South Salem Street. That will have Engineering costs associated with those projects.

Planning Board remained the same. Other Insurance is where the Workers Comp comes in. We have the new rates and we are having an audit next week. Group Insurance went down because of the contributions that the employees make. As their salaries go up so does their contributions.

Unemployment Insurance we were a little low on the balance so I slightly increased it to make sure we had enough in there. Fire Hydrants I went up \$200. They usually get a 2% increase so I wanted to make sure the money was in there. We are at a good number for Road S & W. Overtime along with snow storms we should have enough money to cover everything. Road O & E we are leaving the same.

Health Services Contract there was a rate increase. 911 Costs did not change. We did get a decrease in our billing. We are uncertain on the calculations that they did. I don't want to change until we are sure of their calculations. For this year we should leave it as is and then if they are right we can reduce it next year.

RVRSA is a reduction of \$17,000. Municipal Court in Dover had a rate increase. I did not change the Capital Improvement for Drainage and I did not change it for Recreation. I left \$10,000 in for our Capital Improvement Fund. RUT which is the Reserve For Uncollected Taxes - Bill Schroeder gives us that figure. This may change a little. I have to wait for him.

So, in last years budget we went up around \$22,000. This year we are going up \$18,720. It is a reduction. Most of this is because of the garbage increase.

Last year the increase based on a home assessed at \$200,000 the increase was \$66 per household. This year should be less. Bill will do this calculation. I will be able to get that information from Bill once we decide that this is the budget we are going with.

Councilman Glass asked what is the difference in the line item between BOH and Health Services? The BOH is the Committee and if you need to purchase anything. The BOH Contract Services is the contract that we have with Rockaway Township. What is Dog O & E cover? The Animal Control Officer and Golub Animal Hospital.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if the garbage contract is for three years? Yes, this figure though is based on a year. This year the contract we are doing for garbage is a 5 year contract. The new contract will start April 1. That is why the first three months I am calculating based on the old contract. Clerk S & W we are adding something to it even though we had some last year that was left over. We did that because both in the Clerks office will be taking classes. Also, if Deb Evans is out the other Debbie has to cover. You have a figure for 2015 and 2016 budget. There is an \$18,720 difference. Why is that? You have \$15,000 increase in the garbage and a \$7,900 increase in other insurance. Last year we had a \$22,000 increase. This year we are having an increase of \$18,720.

The Clerk asked Amy if she spoke to Mark about the reval? Yes, we don't have to do it this year. The Clerk said that Councilwoman Montes asked her to mention that she would like to have an increase in the Recreation money for the Easter and Halloween Party of \$150 for each party. I think she gets \$400 for both Easter and Halloween. Then \$1,700 for Christmas. Councilwoman Cheatham said she doesn't think we need to do that. Councilman Lorenzo said if it is needed then we can take it from another line item. Councilman Jacobus said he is concerned that we don't have a report back from Christmas. The Clerk said Councilwoman Montes missed that meeting. She will have a report for the end of February. She gave all the receipts to Amy. Amy said she had about \$300 left from the Christmas Party. If there was \$300 left from Christmas then she can use that money and split it between the Halloween and Easter Parties. If we need it we can find \$300 in the budget.

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote.

Jim Janone - The PERS you said we will have a penalty. About 8 years ago this person was never enrolled. How much will we have to pay? I don't know. I am trying to split it between this year and next. How did this happen? Employee never mentioned it and then he did but all those years had passed. The law had changed several times. Now in the pension you have to be a full time person. This was prior to all the other changes. Increase in court is 2% of the current amount we pay. The contract is a 10 year contract. Garbage contract is going up? Yes. What year of contract are we in? The third year of the final year. The new contract starts in April. Salary increases you get every year. Why? There is no contracts and no one is obligated to get one. You should rethink that.

Joan Cegelka - Salary increases you always gave based on social security cost of living. There is no cost of living raise this year so there should be no salary raise. Were any of the left over toys from Christmas donated? We don't know. We will have to get the report from Councilwoman Montes. Is there a lot of food left over from these parties? You should have the parents register for the parties. Councilman Lorenzo said they did that for the Christmas Party. Any food left over goes to the residents that want to take it.

Public Portion Continued -

Joan Cegelka Continued - How much money did you put into Planning Board? It stayed the same at \$3,060 . We had \$300 left over from last year. Councilman Glass, don't you think that amount should be increased? Don't you have a project coming up? Not that I know of. What about your Master Plan? The Clerk said she spoke to Dave Zimmerman at the end of last year and Dave said it will be done in 2017. I will call him tomorrow and ask again.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote.

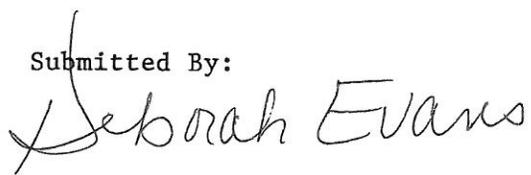
Council asked if we were going to have another meeting? If you think you need a meeting we will have it. These are the figures. Amy said she will have to get them over to Bill Schroeder. If we do another meeting that will be on 2/16/16.

Councilman Glass said we will have to hold off until the next meeting so we can find out about the Master Plan. The Clerk will call Dave Zimmerman tomorrow.

Next budget meeting is 2/16/16.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk

