

## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MARCH 14, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 in the Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, Township of Rockaway, State of New Jersey commencing at 7:35PM.

Council President Kelley led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

Council President Kelley called for a Moment of Silence to remember the Service and Sacrifices of the Armed Service Members who Protect our Nation and the First Responders who Protect our Neighborhoods and for Patricia Seger, the Township Business Administrator's father, Casper, who passed away recently.

**Present:** Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley (Council Member Sackett arrived at 8:49PM)

**Present from Administration:** Mayor Michael Puzio, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Mr. Peter Tabbot, Mr. Bryan Coward, Mr. Al Knoth, Mr. Gene Garabrant

Council President Kelley stated "this meeting was advertised in the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway on March 8, 2019. Notice was posted on the official bulletin board of Rockaway Township."

President Kelley read the Township Code 2-5.15.

**Township Code 2-5.15 Decorum:**

While the Council is in session, the members shall preserve order and decorum. The Council President, at his/her discretion shall direct the Chief of Police or such other person in the Police Department as he may designate to be the Sergeant of Arms at the Council meeting. The Sergeant of Arms shall employ reasonable means to maintain the proper order and decorum consistent with accepted standards.

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET:**

Honorable Judge Smith presented the proposed Court budget for 2019, explained that the budget for the Court is regulated by the Superior Court of Morris County. Judge Smith stated that he believed that Judge Minkowitz with the Morris County Superior Court would approve of and mandate their proposed budget.

Deputy Fire Chief James Russo presented the proposed Fire Department budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning the necessity to increase the proposed budget by \$5,000 for Education and Training due to number of new volunteers. There was further discussion concerning truck maintenance, and the planning of the Fire Department banquet.

Council Member Jackson stepped out at 8:47PM and returned at 8:49PM.

Council Member Sackett arrived at 8:49PM.

The proposed Capital Budget for the Fire Department was discussed, the necessity to replace a truck and purchase new gear.

Messrs. Gene Garabrant, Al Knoth and Dave Swanton presented the proposed Public works and Utilities budget for 2019.

Mr. Knoth explained that they are requesting an increase of \$4,000 from 2018 for the Road Division. There was discussion concerning snow removal for the 2018-2019 season and the amounts of salt and calcium that were used and the total cost of that usage, the current vacancies in the Road Division for staff, and the need to purchase new vehicles and equipment. There was discussion concerning the potential construction of a new building and installation of a wash bay in White Meadow Lake.

Mr. Knoth presented the proposed Recycling Budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning the Recycling Center. Council Member Palumbo questioned whether there was any revenue generated, Mr. Knoth explained that it really depends on the market, the Township sometimes needs to pay to recycle items.

Mr. Knoth presented the proposed Road Division Capital Budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning the resurfacing of roads, the need to replace the underground storage tanks at the Road Department and Senior Center, and the need to purchase new vehicles and equipment.

There was a recess at 10:15PM, the meeting resumed at 10:25PM.

Council Member Jedynak left at 10:30PM.

Mr. Peter Tabbot presented the proposed Health Division budget for 2019. Mr. Tabbot provided the Council with an explanation of their decreased expenses and increased revenues, explained that the Health Division is requesting the hiring of a part-time to fill a position in the Town of Boonton. There was discussion concerning the line items for Education and Salaries.

Mr. Dave Swanton presented the proposed Parks and Playgrounds budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning their contractual fees. There was discussion concerning the Parks and Playgrounds Capital Budget, they are looking to purchase a new pickup truck to replace Truck #440.

Mr. Gene Garabrant presented the proposed Water Division budget for 2019. Mr. Garabrant provided the Council with an explanation of the Water Division's operating expenses and explained that cuts were made where possible, but some line items needed to be raised. There was discussion concerning mandatory water testing, the policy for cellphone usage.

Mr. Gene Garabrant presented the proposed Water Division budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning upgrading meters, the need to replace a utility vehicle, necessary pump and motor replacements, Township-wide water-main improvements, water tank repairs and the need to paint and repair storage tanks.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Road – Ms. Degnan raised concerns regarding the earlier discussion of the construction of a wash bay in White Meadow Lake, stated that it would not be a good location and it would not be well-received by the residents of White Meadow Lake.

John Schmidt, Gloucester City, NJ – Mr. Schmidt raised concerns about the Bowlbyville Sewers, and a copy of the report he had received under OPRA through the Township being fully redacted. Mr. Schmidt requested that the Council take a vote to allow the release of the report to the public. Mr. Schmidt spoke about the court hearing that was held today concerning his Open Public Meetings Act litigation, and allegations that were made against him by the Township.

Brian Wittig, 18 N Lake Shore Drive – Mr. Wittig thanked the Council for the invitation to participate in the budget meetings, he found it to be enlightening. Mr. Wittig thanked Council Members Jedynek, Abrahamsen, Smith, Palumbo and Kelley for reading the Financial Review Board report and stated that he was disappointed that other Council Members didn't respond. Mr. Wittig raised concerns about the budget documents provided on the website being protected.

Carol Lucas, Stonybrook – Ms. Lucas raised concerns about the Financial Review Board report, particularly the information provided regarding the Police Department.

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONTINUED):**

Mr. Bryan Coward presented the proposed Recreation Division budget for 2019. There was discussion regarding increased security for the Ford Faesch West Wing, salary increases, expenses for sports programs, and expenses for Dial-A-Ride.

Mr. Coward gave a power point presentation regarding the Administration's plans for Peterson Field.

There was discussion amongst the Council and Administration regarding Peterson Field, and the necessary improvements.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Sackett and the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:21PM.

Motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Christina Clipperton  
Acting Township Clerk