

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – APRIL 4, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in the Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, Township of Rockaway, State of New Jersey commencing at 7:40p.m.

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.

Present: Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley

Present from Administration: Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri

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 30, 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 PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET:

There was discussion amongst the Council concerning the funds requested to refurbish a van and a 2001 GMC.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Smith to reduce the line item for the 6500 GMC Recycling vehicle from \$55,000 to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Friedlander, seconded by Council Member Sackett to reduce line item 058 on page 31 of the Construction budget from \$2,250 to \$1,150.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the funds requested by Engineering to purchase new vehicles and the maintenance required for the current vehicles.

Motion was made by Council Member Friedlander, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 051 on page 43 of the budget from \$35,000 to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Palumbo to reduce line item 027 on page 6 of the budget from \$50,000 to \$40,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Sackett questioned the Municipal Clerk salary presented on page 11 of the budget, explained that the current salary is \$70,000 and the proposed is \$75,000.

Ms. Palmieri explained that the Resolution to appoint the Acting Clerk allowed for a \$5,000 salary increase upon obtaining her certification.

There was discussion amongst the Council concerning how the salary increase is being presented, and Council Member Sackett suggested that it should be presented separately as a bonus.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by Council Member Sackett to decrease the Deputy Clerk salary from \$51,918 to \$45,788.

There was discussion amongst the Council concerning salary ranges and what could be offered to potential employees.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce line item 028 on page 6 of the budget from \$46,000 to \$40,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 1 (Jackson)

Motion carries.

Council Member Jedynak stated that he believed that there was more flexibility to cut this line item.

There was discussion between the Council and Ms. Palmieri concerning what was intended to be funded by this line item. Ms. Palmieri explained that there was a request for new Human Resources software.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by Council Member Abrahamsen to amend the motion made by Council Member Smith and reduce line item 028 on page 6 of the budget to \$16,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Quinn, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: (Friedlander, Jackson)

Motion carries.

Ms. Palmieri raised concern about large reductions overall being made to the budget.

Council Member Sackett requested clarification concerning the salary proposed for the Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Palmieri explained how the salary was calculated.

Council Member Sackett stated that he would like to adjust line item 029 on page 16 of the budget to \$48,250.

Ms. Palmieri explained that ADP is the Township's current payroll vendor. Ms. Palmieri requested an additional \$10,000 to explore expanding their services and lessen the burden on the Township's employees.

There was discussion concerning the current cost for services.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce line item 029 on page 16 of the budget from \$58,250 to \$48,250.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce line item 029 on page 28 of the budget to \$100,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council President Kelley asked Ms. Palmieri if a motion should be made to decrease taxation, not surplus.

Ms. Palmieri stated that she understands that the Council is trying to decrease taxation, but that a motion could be made to reduce the taxation dollar amount, and the surplus dollar amount.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Palumbo to reduce the Professional Consulting line item 028 on page 36 of the budget to \$37,700.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

Council Member Sackett questioned line item 028 on page 179 of the budget, concerning Professional Consulting for the Court.

Council President Kelley explained that the Assignment Judge sets the Court's budget, and the Council can't make changes to it.

Council Member Sackett questioned what the proposed increase was for.

Council President Kelley explained that it was to hold additional special sessions.

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Jedynek to reduce line item 208 on page 207 of the budget for Professional Consulting from \$25,000 to \$15,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council President Kelley stated that the Construction Office has a line item for facility rental and that, at a previous budget meeting; it was discussed that a similar line item could be added for the Water Department. President Kelley asked Ms. Palmieri how this could be accomplished.

Ms. Palmieri explained that miscellaneous revenue generated by the Water Department in 2019 would go into surplus.

There was discussion concerning how this would effect taxpayers.

Motion was made by Council President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to add subaccount 078 to the Water Department budget for facility rental.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the line item for Open Space Tax on page 211 of the budget and how it was calculated.

There was discussion concerning the line item 000 on Page 139 of the budget for Library tax. Ms. Palmieri explained how it is calculated.

Council Member Jedynek questioned if line items 041 and 042 on page 9 of the budget for Mayor and Council concerning meetings and association dues were reduced at a previous budget meeting.

Ms. Palmieri confirmed that they were.

There was discussion concerning the current accountant vacancy. Ms. Palmieri explained where there was potential of savings with this line item. Ms. Palmieri explained that the new payroll supervisor salary was set at \$65,000 and the new accountant can be a clerk position.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynek, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce the Payroll Supervisor salary from \$72,724 to \$65,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce the Accountant salary from \$65,025 to \$48,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning line item 014 on page 16 of the budget for overtime. Ms. Palmieri explained that due to a vacancy in the Payroll Supervisor position, the Finance office has almost hit their limit for overtime.

There was discussion concerning the overall need for the Finance office to have a line item for overtime.

Council Member Jedynek stepped out at 9:28PM.

There was discussion concerning line item 155 on page 143 of the budget for Municipal Accounts.

Council Member Jedynak returned at 9:31PM.

Council Member Abrahamsen stepped out at 9:31PM.

Council Member Palumbo asked Ms. Palmieri if this line item could be cut by \$10,000. Ms. Palmieri confirmed that it could.

Motion was made by Council Member Palumbo, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to reduce line item 155 on page 143 of the budget from \$157,000 to \$147,000.

Council Member Sackett explained that he didn't address this line item because he was concerned about fluctuating utility rates.

Vice-President Abrahamsen returned at 9:34PM.

There was discussion concerning how this line item is projected.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 6 (Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 3 (Quinn, Friedlander, Sackett)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 041 on page 122 for conferences and meetings from \$900 to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

President Kelley questioned why line item 038 on page 100 of the budget had funds allocated equipment rather than having it allocated in capital.

Ms. Palmieri stated that funds could be moved to capital and recommended that the Council move \$13,000 for that purpose.

Motion was made by Vice-President Abrahamsen, seconded by Council Member Jackson to move \$13,000 from line item 038 on page 100 of the budget to capital for diagnostic equipment.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Vice-President Abrahamsen, seconded by President Kelley to reduce line item 038 on page 100 of the budget from \$13,000 to \$3,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The Council recessed at 10:01PM.

The meeting resumed at 10:16PM.

Council President Kelley offered to let the public speak at this time.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 042 on page 2 of the budget for conferences and meetings from \$2,500 to \$2,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Jackson to reduce line item 059 on page 2 for computer equipment from \$1,000 to \$500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Jedynak questioned the salary for the Recreation Park Maintenance Supervisor on page 129 of the budget; he believed there was a calculation error.

Ms. Palmieri explained that this individual had received a promotion last year, and explained how the salary was calculated.

There was discussion concerning line items in the Senior Citizens and Recreation budgets.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 059 on page 18 for Information and Technology from \$15,000 to \$7,500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by President Kelley to reduce line item 028 on page 18 for Professional and Consulting fees from \$40,000 to \$33,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the salary for the Tax Collector and the recently filled Assistant Tax Collector position.

Council Member Jackson left at 11:00PM.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by Council President Kelley to reduce the salary for the Assistant Tax Collector from \$65,049 to \$43,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the salary increase for the Senior Tax Clerk.

There was discussion concerning line item 014 on page 21 of the budget for overtime in the Tax Collector's office.

Council President Kelley questioned if that line item could be eliminated.

Ms. Palmieri stated that it could be adjusted, but not eliminated.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce line item 014 on page 21 for overtime from \$1,000 to \$500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 026 on page 21 for equipment maintenance from \$900 to \$500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 028 on page 21 for Professional Consulting from \$8,000 to \$6,500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Quinn left at 11:15PM.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 014 on page 31 for Engineering overtime from \$2,500 to \$1,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Smith questioned the salary and hour increase for the Keyboard Clerk in the Human Resources budget.

Ms. Palmieri explained that Administration is requesting the increase.

Council Member Sackett questioned if the additional hours could possibly provide assistance to the Clerk's office.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynek, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to set the salary for the Keyboarding Clerk position at \$24,910.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Smith to reduce the Confidential Secretary salary from \$59,000 to \$55,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 014 on page 43 for overtime in Construction from \$6,000 to \$4,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning line item 030 on page 43 for materials and supplies. The requested amount was \$750 and the recommended was \$2,750.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to reduce line item 030 on page 43 from \$2,750 to \$1,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Palumbo stepped out at 11:37PM.

There was discussion concerning line item 023 on page 43 for printing.

Motion was made by Vice-President Abrahamsen, seconded by Council Member Sackett to reduce line item 023 on page 43 of the budget for printing from \$6,000 to \$5,000.

Council Member Palumbo returned at 11:39PM.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the position of the Keyboarding Clerk on page 42A of the budget and the need to increase hours and salary.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynek to keep the Keyboarding Clerk position at the 2018 level at \$23,746.

With no second, the motion failed.

There was discussion concerning the Principle Clerk Typist salary on page 109A.

Motion was made by Vice-President Abrahamsen, seconded by Council Member Sackett to keep the Principle Clerk salary at the 2018 salary of \$50,875.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Smith to reduce line item 113 on page 97 for Shade Tree from \$3,000 to \$500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Vice-President Abrahamsen stepped out at 11:51PM.

There was discussion concerning line item 014 on page 91 of the budget for Traffic Maintenance overtime.

Vice-President Abrahamsen returned at 11:54PM.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by Council Member Smith to reduce line item 014 on page 91 for Traffic Maintenance overtime from \$230,000 to \$200,000.

There was discussion concerning line item 014 on page 137 for Senior Citizens Transportation.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Abrahamsen to reduce line item 077 on page 57 for Police overtime to \$7,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Jedynak to reduce line item 077 on page 67 for OEM cellphones and computers to \$1,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 2 (Jedynak, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 5 (Friedlander, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen)

Motion does not carry.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to reduce line item 000 on page 204 for Reserve for Uncollected Taxes from \$3,639,000 to \$3,439,000.

There was discussion concerning the purpose of the Reserve.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning line item 000 on page 50 of the budget for Group Insurance. Ms. Palmieri cautioned the Council about Rmaking cuts to this line item.

There was discussion concerning page 214 and the funds proposed for Peterson Field improvements. The Council discussed the possibility of placing this project on the ballot in the General Election for Referendum. The Council discussed that if the Peterson Field project were to be placed on the ballot, the entire project would need to be put on, not just a portion.

There was further discussion concerning the Council's options of placing the Peterson Field project on referendum or funding the project through capital.

The Council agreed that if the Peterson Field project was placed on referendum that it would be the entire proposed project and that they would need to be clear that the funds would be dedicated for this specific purpose.

Council Member Smith left at 12:44AM.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council President Kelley, seconded by Council Vice-President Abrahamsen to adjourn the March 26, 2019 meeting at 12:45AM, all present members of the Council unanimously agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Clipperton, Acting Municipal Clerk