

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Neil Henry called the January 26, 2013 (Saturday) meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 9:00a.m. in the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Henry offered a moment of silence meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record, and was posted on the Phoenix House bulletin board in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Neil Henry

Council President Stanley Witzak
Councilman John Andrus
Councilman David Sharkey
Councilwoman Veronica Daly
Councilman Louis Garubo

Also present: Susan Giordano, Chief Financial Officer
Ellen Sandman, Administrator

Absent: Councilman Brad Badal

Councilman Andrus made the opening remarks stressing the 2% Cap and recommended that the fixed costs such as pensions, medical, and social security be kept in mind. Mr. Andrus' commented that when the money is borrowed to purchase a truck the Borough will automatically incur \$100,000 in debt service. He continued that EMS and the Fire Department will be provided with the proper equipment by cuts being made in other areas and further noted that the debt payment will increase in 2014.

2013 Budget Presentations:

Fire Department -Chief Richard DeNicola

Chief DeNicola reported that there were 5 sets of new gear purchased and a 'Hurst tool'. There was money in the budget this year to makes these purchases due to low truck repairs. He noted that the call volume was up in 2012. Mr. DeNicola clarified a line item for 'pagers' stating it was for the batteries.

Insurance and specialized coverage were discussed and the purchase of a new 'pumper' when it reaches its 20 year life span. Comparisons with neighboring municipalities and the prospect of regionalization of fire services was part of the discussion. Mr. Andrus noted that the Borough will have to start thinking of helping the Fire Department fund items that are outside of the budget. Renting of the firehouse was mentioned as a revenue source. Chief DeNicola feels that the manning of the firehouse during the rental and the hassle did not justify the minimum financial return.

The donation by organizations to the Fire Department to hang banners was addressed with Chief DeNicola responding that a typical donation is \$200 to put up and take down or another option maybe not to set a price.

First Aid Squad - Captain Paula Oswald/President David Murphy

This presentation began with the fact that the State of New Jersey has eliminated many of the free classes and magazines, along with Governor Christie stopping the funding for training. This has resulted in the burden being placed on the Squad members. To summarize, the cost of training went up and funding went down.

Capt. Oswald has put together a committee to review fundraising options. She continued her report noting the struggle to get volunteers (has two new recruits) to join the Squad, and the budget requests before the Council are for the Squad needs and not 'wants'. There are certain upgrades that are necessary in order to remain in compliance.

The Captain reported that are meeting being held between the Borough and Township Squads regarding services and territorial problems.

Ms. Oswald further reported that she has budgeted for jackets, pants which are presently not compliant with ANSI and OSHA; and footwear. Continuing it was noted that the storage room is compliant but EMS 4 is 13 years old.

It was suggested that the Borough help the Squad raise money suggesting reaching out with town resources-newsletter, email blasts.

Break 10:22-10:37

Water Reclamation Facility-Superintendent Douglas Wright

Superintendent Wright reviewed his 'capital budget'.

Discussion was held regarding a 'towable' generator. It would cost approximately \$7,000-\$8,000 to convert the Garabrant Center to accept a portable generator. It was mentioned that "Baldor" is well known, reliable and quality unit. The State will not allow the WRF to put their generator on natural gas because the plant is on a fault.

Grit classifier, pond decommissioning and engineering costs were reviewed by Mr. Wright. He continued his review with mention of Phase IV of the 'slip lining project', the UV System rehabilitation in the near future and the replacement of an 11 year old truck.

Department of Public Works-Superintendent Kenneth O'Brien

Superintendent Kenneth O'Brien discussed the salt paste system and focused on the fact that there were no calls received regarding slippery road conditions from the Police Department, no employee over-time and applied 1/3 of the salt normally used.

There were no questions on DPW's operating budget, but Councilman Andrus questioned priorities on the Capital budget. It was mentioned that no further monies would be borrowed this year because of the purchase of the fire truck and road repairs.

Superintendent O'Brien stressed the poor condition of Balbrook Road and noted that the road is shifting and needs to be bulldozed and shored-up underneath. He continued noting that Balbrook Road was not properly installed and the top coat was not applied properly. He continued to report that Mountain Avenue is in need of milling and paving. He suggested that Park Avenue be worked on at the same time since it is failing and wearing out. The estimate for milling and paving of both together is approximately \$32,000.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the longevity of oil and stone used for roads without turns and intersections, with the need to be done every year or two. He suggested wheel balances to help replacing of tires and a multi-use truck.

Police Department -Chief Pasquale Libertino

Chief Libertino noted that the speed trailer is aging and can get through this year. If the 'mother board' goes it would not be worth fixing. He further suggested stopping the bike patrol, noting the rising costs in flares and patrol car equipment, and each vehicle needs a \$200 a year licensing agreement for the radios.

Further information on radio costs and Chief dues was requested. It was decided that this budget would be reviewed and after responding back to the Chief, the PD budget will be adjusted accordingly.

After discussion it was decided to try and get radio money from the OEM budget, cut court security and the over-time appropriation was removed.

Discussion on the PD Capital budget revealed the need for a firewall to stop outsiders from getting into the police network. All the computer systems are running on XP which will no longer be updated or have support. The computers cannot keep up with the new Borough server. The laptops in the police vehicles are obsolete and parts cannot be purchased. It was noted that Ipad has a new system for police cars available and one which can withstand law enforcement usage.

Councilman Andrus asked the Chief to supply the Council with the State requirements for a computer system. It was also suggested that Attorney Semrau be asked about the ramifications of a breach to the Police system. Chief Libertino also noted that he would like to switch to FIOS.

12:52 PM

Res. #29-13 Executive Session-Contract Negotiations

(Shared Municipal Court)

Motion to approve Resolution #29-13 was made by Councilman Andrus

Second by Councilman Sharkey

Discussion: None

Roll Call - the vote was unanimous as follows:

In favor: Witczak, Andrus, Sharkey, Daly, Garubo

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Badal

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Council returned to open session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business scheduled for the consideration of the Mayor and Council at this time, on a motion duly made by Councilman Garubo, seconded by Councilwoman Daly and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30PM next to convene at the Regular Meeting on February 4, 2013 at 8:00 P.M. at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey 07945.

Respectfully submitted, Assisted by
Chief Financial Officer Susan Giordano

Maureen Massey, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk