

JANUARY 16, 2010

BUDGET MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, JANUARY 16, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BOROUGH HALL.

Mayor Dempsey's statement re: Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and that notice was given to the Coast Star and the Asbury Park Press on December 22, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Lee.
Absent: Council Member Lucas.

Council Member Connolly arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Also present was Municipal Administrator John Trengrove.

APPOINTMENT: 9:00 A.M. DPW Superintendent Thomas Nicastro.

Mayor Dempsey asked that the Governing Body make changes as the budget is being reviewed.

Council Member Connolly asked if the Mayor is referring to permanent changes and stated that she doesn't think so.

Council Member Grasso stated also that he didn't think so.

Council Member Connolly related that she thinks that they all have to be reviewed again – perhaps by the Administration and Finance Committee.

Mayor Dempsey related that changes will be made today then at the last meeting final changes can be made again.

Mr. Trengrove related that the statutory budget introduction date has been extended to March.

The Governing Body and Mr. Nicastro reviewed the Public Works Budget.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that the Superintendent Salary and Wage Line Item #0-01-26-290-111 is contractual.

Council Member Connolly asked why does it have a 4 percent increase.

Mr. Trengrove related that it is 2 percent.

Council Member Lee asked why Line Item #0-01-26-290-014/Overtime jumped up from the past two years.

Mr. Nicastro related that the increase was due to the overtime paid for the last snowstorm. He noted that the cost was approximately \$10,000 and a small amount for the nor'easters.

Council Member Grasso asked if John Trengrove is working budget to budget or with what is actual figures.

Mr. Trengrove related that he is using contractual figures.

Council Members Connolly and Grasso pointed out that the increase in the Superintendent of Public Works Salary and Wage Line Item is 4 percent.

Mr. Trengrove related that the salary splits have changed and that the actual figure is listed in the Salary and Wage Spreadsheet that was provided to the Governing Body and that the figure of 2 percent was used.

Council Member Connolly and Mr. Trengrove discussed whether or not this line item had the correct figure.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Mr. Trengrove reiterated that the split had changed and that the figure listed in the salary spread sheet is the correct contractual amount. He also related that the Superintendent of DPW has a longevity step increase due to him in June.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Connolly related that she can only go by what she is given.

Mr. Trengrove related that he provided Council Member Connolly with the necessary document. He related that Mr. Nicastro's contract is up in June and will be renegotiated.

Council Member Connolly asked how long the contract is for.

Mr. Trengrove related that it depends what is negotiated. He related that multi-year contracts can save on the mediation and arbitration costs as well as legal and professional fees.

Council Member Connolly related that Mr. Nicastro is not a member of the union. She asked if all of the managerial staff has contracts.

Mr. Trengrove related that they do.

Council Member Connolly asked if they serve at the pleasure of the Council.

Mr. Trengrove related that they have property rights in their job and are tenured.

Council Member Connolly related that she can see the constitutional officers having tenure and reiterated her question about whether or not managers have tenure rights including the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Trengrove related that when an expectation of continued employment exists they develop property rights in the job and as long as they are doing the job they have property rights unless they are removed for cause.

Council Member Connolly asked why they have to have a contract in addition to the property rights.

Mr. Trengrove related that the contract sets forth the conditions of their employment in regards to what they receive.

Council Member Connolly related that most of us came out of private sector and didn't have contracts and served at the pleasure of the corporation. She asked if the contracts are mandated by law.

Mr. Trengrove related that Council Member Connolly is welcome to ask the labor counsel these questions. He related that the contracts are probably not mandated by law.

Council Member Connolly related that it is not logical that the State of New Jersey would mandate contracts.

Mr. Trengrove related that it depends what the case law says. He related that he is not an attorney and that these questions should be directed to the labor counsel. He also related that he is not sure how past practice affects this issue. He related that a legal opinion is needed from labor counsel.

Council Member Grasso asked Mr. Nicastro how he formulated the numbers in his budget.

Mr. Nicastro related that he lists the subcategories of the line item and goes by what he spent.

Council Member Grasso asked how Mr. Nicastro goes across the budget. He asked if he goes budget to budget or budget to actual.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Mr. Nicastro related that he does both. He related that he looks at what he budgeted in the previous year and what he actually spent.

Council Member Grasso related that he sees a trend that everyone wants to budget what was actually spent the following year or budget more than what was actually spent. He related that is not the way it is done. He related that it is usually done if \$10,000 was budget and \$2,000 was spent then \$5,000 would be the budget. He asked where is the extra money going. He related that if the budget number wasn't spent then where is the money going.

Mr. Nicastro related that he only buys what he needs and related that is a question for Mr. Trengrove.

Mayor Dempsey related that the money is cancelled or transferred.

Mr. Trengrove related that there is a certain amount of guess work.

Council Member Grasso informed Mr. Trengrove not to teach him that because he already knows it. He related that is Business 101.

Mr. Trengrove related that it is important for the public to understand the process.

Council Member Grasso related that we are way off here and continued to discuss the trend that he sees in the budget.

Mr. Trengrove related that it is cancelled and put in surplus or transferred into line items that were under budgeted or for items that were not anticipated.

Council Member Grasso related that he hasn't seen that yet.

Mr. Trengrove related that there are transfers through out the budget document and the Governing Body passed a resolution transferring money at the last budget meeting of the year that Council Member Grasso was present at. He related that the Governing Body did this for cancellations also.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Mayor Dempsey related that repairs to a machine have nothing to do with the economy - if a machine has to be repaired it has to be repaired.

Council Member Grasso related that he is not talking about machines but he is talking about the formulation of a budget.

Mr. Trengrove related that in the private sector the budget items are more predictable and that in the public sector there are a lot of unknowns, therefore, there is guesswork involved. He related that overtime is a good example. For example, it is unknown whether or not it is going to snow or when a hurricane will occur. He related that it is different than budgeting for a product that is going to be manufactured. He related that it is unknown when a water main will break. He related that the Borough is not building a product but providing a service. He related that many times Mr. Nicastro is responding to emergencies to correct a problem.

Council Member Grasso said to take the emergencies out of the equation.

Mr. Trengrove asked how.

Council Member Grasso related that certain things have to be factored in for emergencies but other things, such as conference meetings and certificates of education that are more predictable.

Council Member Grasso asked if the departments can consolidate the use of copy machines and office supplies.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Mr. Trengrove related that they do buy supplies together but the cost is split between the budgets.

Council Member Grasso related that it is very weird how we go from budget to budget to budget with the mood that swings from negative to positive on the recaps. He related that it is outrageous. For example, the streets, roads and other expenses last year was down 20 percent but a budget of 27.38 percent is being requested.

Council Member Connolly suggested lowering Line Item #0-01-26-290-038/Supplies – Tools & Equipment from \$10,500 to \$9,000.

The Governing Body discussed this matter.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to lower Line Item #0-01-26-290-038/Supplies – Tools & Equipment to \$10,000 from \$10,500, seconded by Council Member Donovan.

Mayor Dempsey asked Council Member Donovan for his vote.

Council Member Donovan replied that he was in favor of \$10,000.

Mayor Dempsey asked Council Member Bossone for his vote.

Council Member Bossone replied that he was in favor of \$10,000.

The Municipal Clerk related that the members of the Governing Body have to vote for the motion that is not on the table and cannot amend it to \$9,000.

The motion failed by the following vote: "yes" Council Members Bossone, Donovan. "No" Council Members Connolly, Grasso, Lee.

Council Member Connolly and Council Member Lee made a motion to lower Line Item #0-01-26-290-038/Supplies – Tools & Equipment to \$9,000 from \$10,500, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Motion carried by the following vote: "No" Council Members Bossone, Donovan. "Yes" Council Members Connolly, Grasso, Lee.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-26-290-041/Conferences and Meetings from \$750.00 to \$575.00, seconded by Council Member Bossone. Motion carried by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Lee. "No" none.

Mr. Nicastro explained that the Federal Government is mandating that all traffic signs have a new reflectivity material effective January 2012. He related that there are different phases for different types of signs. He related that he split the cost between 2010 and 2011 and that he would like to do the stop signs and speed limit signs first.

Council Member Connolly suggested not including any funding for this item in the 2010 year budget.

Mr. Nicastro related that the pedestrian crossing signs are in the Police budget.

Council Member Connolly recommended removing the funding from this year's budget.

Council Member Donovan related that if that occurs, all of them will have to be done in one year. He related that plugging \$30,000 into a one year budget is much more onerous than plugging in \$10,000 over a three year period.

Mayor Dempsey related that once they are done the Borough liability will be less if it has the proper signs.

Council Member Connolly related that she understands (the liability issue) but that she understands that people are really in dire financial states and people are facing foreclosures in the Borough. She related that (it would be difficult) to tell them that the Borough is using

JANUARY 16, 2010

\$10,000 tax dollars for signs and to forget about their tax dollars. She related that we are trying to reduce the budget as much as possible and noted that it is a recovery year.

Council Member Lee related that it is important to recognize that the Council is making cuts to spending since the beginning of the year starting with the Coast Guard Station. He related that there are a lot of people struggling and that it is a difficult time and that the Governing Body is going to continue looking at every budget item. He related that you can't spend \$300,000 on the SBLSS Project and then not spend on something like this which will impact safety. Additionally, he related that if the expenditure is pushed back to another year it is putting a strain on the labor force. He related that the wisest move is to spread the cost over a two year period.

Mr. Nicastro related that he put \$8,300 in this year's budget for the signs and if it is removed then \$16,000 to \$17,000 will be requested in 2011.

Council Member Connolly related that it might be a better year economically.

Council Member Grasso related that Council Member Connolly is not saying to slash the funding but that it would be better to fund it in 2011.

Council Member Lee made a motion to keep the funding level in Line Item #0-01-26-290-119/Traffic Signs at \$10,000, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried by the following vote: "yes" Council Members Bossone, Donovan, Lee. "No" Council Members Connolly, Donovan.

Council Member Grasso related that the Governing Body is talking about budgets and asked if references to the Coast Guard Station project could be left out of these discussions.

Council Member Lee related that the Squan Beach Life Saving Station (SBLSS) Project topic shows spending habits and what we are going to continue to do this year. He related that if the Governing Body is going to continue to loop in how much concern there is about the budgets then the spending pattern is legitimate.

Council Member Connolly related that Council Member Lee has never taken into the consideration all of the grants or the potential money that may be taken in for the SBLSS Project. She also asked that discussions of this project be kept out of the budget discussions.

Council Member Lee related that he will say what he wants and what he feels is important.

The Governing Body and Mr. Nicastro continued to review the Streets and Road Maintenance Budget.

Council Member Lee recommended lowering the Sweeper Brooms & Repairs Line Item #0-01-26-290-126 from \$6,000.00 to about \$4,500.00 since the Borough has a new machine that is under warranty.

Mr. Nicastro related that he would not recommend lowering this line item. He related that the brooms are very expensive. He related that he would consider lowering the line item to \$5,000.00 but cautioned that it may not be enough.

Council Member Lee made a motion to lower the Sweeper Brooms & Repairs Line Item #0-01-26-290-126 from \$6,000.00 to \$5,000.00, seconded by Council Member Bossone. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Governing Body, Mr. Nicastro and the Municipal Clerk reviewed the Public Buildings and Grounds Other Expense Budget.

Council Member Lee asked if there is funding in Line Item 0-01-26-310-026/Repairs -- Buildings and Equipment for the maintenance of the Squan Beach Life Saving Station when it opens.

Mr. Nicastro related that he was unaware that this budget would fund the maintenance of that building.

JANUARY 16, 2010

There was some discussion regarding the impact of the Squan Beach Life Saving Station Building on Line Item #0-01-26-310-026/Repairs – Buildings and Equipment.

Mr. Trengrove suggested lowering Line Item #0-01-26-310-026/Repairs – Buildings and Equipment from \$8,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and establishing a new Line Item for Squan Beach Life Saving Station Maintenance.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-26-310-026/Repairs – Buildings and Equipment from \$8,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and allocate \$2,000.00 each for the DCI Building and the Squan Beach Life Saving Station building maintenance, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried by the following vote: “yes” Council Member Bossone, Donovan, Lee. “No” Council Member Connolly and Grasso.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-26-310-038/Supplies, Tools, Equipment from \$2,500.00 to \$2,000.00, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Council member Grasso asked the Municipal Clerk if she could reduce Line Item #0-01-26-310-039/Maintenance Contracts.

The Municipal Clerk related that the items are contractual and that she would not recommend it.

Council Member Grasso suggested lowering Line Item #0-01-26-310-199/Miscellaneous from \$500.000 to \$150.00.

There was a brief discussion regarding this item.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to keep Line Item #0-01-26-310-199/Miscellaneous at \$500.00, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried by the following vote: “yes” Council Member Bossone, Donovan, Lee. “No” Council Member Connolly, Grasso.

Mr. Nicastro related that he has budgeted \$3,000.00 in Line Item #0-01-28-375-065/New Equipment to purchase a blower, two weed whackers, two lawn mowers and a pole saw.

Council Member Connolly asked Mr. Nicastro if he could cut this budget line item to \$1,500.00.

Mr. Nicastro related that he could but that he would hate to have to ask the Governing Body for \$5,000.00 in this line item next year. He related that he would be more comfortable with reducing it to \$2,000.00.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-28-375-065/New Equipment from \$3,000.00 to \$1,500.00, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Motion failed by the following vote: “yes” Council Members Connolly, Grasso. “No” Council Members Bossone, Donovan, Lucas.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-28-375-065/New Equipment from \$3,000.00 to \$2,000.00, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried by the following vote: “No” Council Members Connolly, Grasso. “Yes” Council Members Bossone, Donovan, Lucas.

Council Member Connolly related that she would like to talk to the Garden Club to see if they will reduce or eliminate their line item this year.

Council Member Connolly asked Mr. Nicastro to reduce Line Item #0-01-28-375-100/Miscellaneous from \$500.00 to \$300.00.

Mr. Nicastro related that he doesn't feel that \$500.00 is a ridiculous amount and that it is a guess.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-28-375-100/Miscellaneous – Parks & Playgrounds from \$500.00 to \$300.00., seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Council Member Grasso noted that another miscellaneous line item in the DPW budget is \$500.00 and related that these line items should be reduced consistently.

Council Member Lee related that the Parks & Playground is a much smaller operation and that they could live with the reduction.

Mr. Nicastro related that the Perrine Boulevard, Fourth Ave and Stockton Lake Boulevard Bulkheading is in very bad shape and will be extremely expensive to repair. He related that they are putting band aids on items that should be repaired.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that he cannot find any grant money for this work.

Council Member Grasso asked if there is any *Shovel-Ready* grant money available for this type of project.

Both Mr. Trengrove and Mr. Nicastro related that there is no *Shovel-Ready* grant money for this type of project.

Council Member Connolly suggested lowering Waterways Regular S & W/Line Item #0-01-30-411-012 from \$50.00 to \$25.00.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

Mr. Nicastro related that \$2,000 of the funding in Line Item #0-01-30-411-038/Waterways Tools & Equipment is for the purchase of new trash and recycling containers that are Sea Gull proof.

Council Member Connolly suggested doing with what the DPW has this year. She asked if there is something that the DPW could hold off on this year.

Mr. Nicastro related that he could hold off on the purchase of the trash cans but that he was trying to purchase a small amount of cans each year to minimize the impact on the budget. He related that one can cost approximately \$400.00.

Council Member Grasso suggested purchasing the cans at Home Depot.

Mr. Nicastro related that a special can with the ability to bolt it to the ground is needed.

Council Member Donovan related that he would like the line item to stay the same because a health hazard is created if proper cans aren't used.

Council Member Connolly related that we are really having a terrible tax problem and (it would be difficult) to tell our taxpayers that we are spending \$400.00 on trash cans while they are trying to get their money together to stay in their homes. She related that the Borough has to be more sensitive to the taxpayers.

Council Member Grasso asked if the trash in those locations could be picked up more.

Mr. Trengrove related that trash removal is contractual. He also related that the Borough received a lot of complaints about the garbage situation at the Inlet and also that it lent itself to a rat problem there. He related that not only does it create problems with the Seagulls but also with rats. He related that the Borough has to treat that area for rats.

Council Member Lee asked if the trash problem at the Inlet area could still be taken care of if this line item were to be reduced by \$1,000.00. He noted that labor issues as well as health and safety issues are a concern there.

Mr. Nicastro replied affirmatively.

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-01-30-411-038/Waterways Tools & Equipment from \$5,500.00 to \$4,500.00, seconded by Council Member Bossone. Motion carried by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Bossone, Donovan, Lee. "No" Council Member Connolly, Grasso.

The Governing Body and Mr. Nicastro reviewed the Water/Sewer Budgets.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that \$15,000 is included in Line Item #0-05-55-501-513/Collection of Rentals for a new CFO. He related that he will be resigning from the position on June 1, 2010 and that the salaries of the CFO and Payroll Clerk are unknown.

There was some discussion regarding Line Item #0-05-55-501-512/Overtime.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that it is believed that there will be additional water line breaks because of the cold winter this year, therefore, additional overtime funds may be needed.

Council Member Lee made a motion to lower Line Item #0-05-55-501-512/Overtime from \$30,000.00 to \$25,000.00, seconded by Council Member Connolly. Roll call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to lower Line Item #0-05-55-501-514/Collection Overtime from \$500.00 to \$200.00, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Roll call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding Line Item #0-05-55-502-507/Repairs – Equipment and Supplies.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-502-507/Repairs – Equipment and Supplies from \$75,000.00 to \$70,000.00, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Grasso made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-502-508/Supplies – Tools & Equipment from \$30,000 to \$28,000.00, seconded by Council Member Connolly. Roll call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Grasso made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-502-510/Conventions, Seminars, Meetings from \$1,000.00 to \$725.00, seconded by Council Member Connolly. "yes" Council Members Connolly, Grasso, Lee. "No" Council Members Bossone, Donovan.

There was some discussion regarding the infiltration into the sanitary sewer system and the cost associated with investigating it.

Mr. Trengrove suggested posting a notice on the Borough's website informing residents that enforcement action will be taken for illegal sump pump hook ups.

There was a great deal of discussion about Line Item #0-05-55-502-515/Lab Reports.

Council Member Connolly asked Mr. Nicastro if he could lower this line item from \$6,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Mr. Nicastro related that he would not be comfortable with the reduction. He related that he has no control over this line item.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-502-515/Lab Reports from \$6,000.00 to \$5,000.00, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Roll call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that Line Item #0-05-55-502-525/Contingency is a safety net for the Governing Body in case they need funding for something that the Governing Body decides to do.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Council Member Lee made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-502-525/Contingency from \$7,000.00 to \$4,500.00, seconded by Council Member Connolly. Roll Call was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council Member Grasso made a motion to lower Sludge Removal/Line Item #0-05-55-502-527 from \$20,000.00 to \$17,000.00, seconded by Council Member Connolly. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Nicastro related that he did not believe reducing the sludge removal line item would present any problems for his department.

Council Member Lee exited the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

Mr. Nicastro related that Line Item #0-5-55-526-504/Replacement Vehicle Jeep would be for him then his current vehicle would be used by the DPW Department members. He related that the Jeep would cost \$21,000 and that they would retire Truck #8.

Council Member Connolly related that in this day and age she would say no to the truck. She related that her husband would like a new car too but not for this year. She related that they should hold off on buying anything new this year.

Council Member Grasso agreed with Council Member Connolly and related that they will have to make do with what we have. He related that we have to send a message to the people that we are trying to do something.

Mayor Dempsey related that the DPW has three vehicles that are near collapse: the el Camino, Truck 8 and the Bronco.

Council Member Connolly related that those vehicles should be repaired and that it is an important year to send out the message. She related that the Borough will have a new jeep on the road when people are struggling to make ends meet. I don't think so, she stated – it is the wrong message to send.

Mayor Dempsey related that the Borough spent \$3,500.00 to repair Truck 8.

Council Member Connolly related that is better than spending \$22,000.00.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to remove the purchase of the jeep from the budget, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Motion failed by the following vote: "yes" Council Members Connolly & Grasso. "No" Council Members Bossone, Donovan. Mayor Dempsey voted "no" to break the tie.

Council Member Grasso related that he wants this to go on the record that this purchase is at the expense of the taxpayers.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Governing Body agreed to revisit the Vehicle Repair Line Item after this decision was made.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-5-55-502-519/Vehicle Repair from \$10,000.00 to \$9,000.00, seconded by Council Member Donovan. The motion was approved by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Bossone, Connolly, Donovan. Council Member Grasso voted to reduce this line item to \$2,100.00.

The Municipal Clerk related that the motion on the table has to be disposed of.

Council Member Grasso voted "yes".

Council Member Connolly made a motion to reduce Line Item #0-05-55-526-512/Tools & Equipment from \$5,000.00 to \$4,000.00, seconded by Council Member Grasso. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Nicastro was excused from the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

JANUARY 16, 2010

A brief recess was held from 11:47 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

APPOINTMENT: Neil Hamilton, Supervisor of Building, Construction/Code Departments.

The Governing Body and Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Planning Board budget items.

The Governing Body and Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Code Enforcement, Construction Code, and Electrical Inspections budget Items.

Council Member Connolly suggested that Mr. Hamilton eliminate the purchase of uniform (Line Item #0-01-22-195-032) shirts for 2010.

Mr. Hamilton related that the amount of \$300.00 is for two individuals and that they shop wisely for their uniform items.

Council Member Connolly suggested using the uniform items that they already have.

Mr. Trengrove noted that the Borough will be putting SPAM controls on each Borough email account and that the cost will be spread across the budgets.

The Governing Body and Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Shade Tree Commission budget.

Council Member Connolly related that she would like to cut this budget in half. She reviewed the detailed Shade Tree Budget. She proposed keeping the figure of \$6,000.00 in the budget for tree elevation work.

Mayor Dempsey related that money is needed for tree removal and trimming to take care of the tree hazards.

Mr. Trengrove pointed out that funding is needed for storm damage related expenses.

Mr. Hamilton related that he does not know what area can be reduced and noted that they have done a good job keeping liability down in this area.

Council Member Connolly related that for this year only the committees and commissions have to be looked at closely and look for some cuts. She related that she hates to see the Borough not purchase trees but it is an area where the Borough can save.

Mr. Trengrove related that there is a CAP on the amount to be raised by taxation of four percent so the Borough shouldn't build expectations that items that are removed from the budget in 2010 will be able to be purchased in 2011.

Mayor Dempsey suggested reducing the tree planting portion of the Shade Tree Commission budget from \$8,300.00 to \$5,000.00.

Council Member Connolly related that it is nice to have a Shade Tree Commission but in bad times the Borough has to look at every single commission and committee. She related that people will understand. She suggested that they review their budget and make reductions where they feel they can be made.

The Governing Body agreed to invite representatives from the Shade Tree Commission to a future budget meeting of the Governing Body.

Mr. Hamilton related that they will be submitting a proposal for the increase of Construction and C/O Rental and Transfer Fees. He briefly reviewed the proposal.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Governing Body should act on this quickly since the rental season is soon.

Mr. Hamilton suggested instituting a fee of \$10.00 per garage sale permit.

JANUARY 16, 2010

Mr. Hamilton was excused from the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

APPOINTMENT: 12:48 P.M. Manasquan Public Library Representatives Renee Cullett and Ann Capelli.

Mrs. Cullett reviewed the 2009 budget and 2010 budget requests that were submitted with their December 6th, 2009 letter.

Council Member Connolly related that she supports the Library's request of a one percent or \$1,345.00 increase over the amount the library received in 2009.

Mayor Dempsey related that he has a problem with the residents paying the total of \$442,000 for the County and the Manasquan Public Library. He related that it is a lot of money.

There was some discussion regarding the Borough's library options.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to accept the \$1,345.00 increase.

Council Member Donovan asked what happened to Council Member Connolly's suggestion that Council Member Lucas ask the Library to keep the Borough's increase flat in 2010.

Council Member Connolly related that it wasn't done. She related that when the Library has a lot of increases and that they provide a tremendous amount to the town people.

Council Member Donovan related that every penny counts.

Council Member Grasso related that this is beneficial to the seniors and children in town. He related that we don't need to take something away that is needed to educate our citizens and keeps the senior's minds sharp and focused.

Mayor Dempsey related that he believes the taxpayers would be upset if they knew how much they were paying for the libraries.

Council Member Connolly related that the taxpayers are going to be upset when they find out that the Water and Sewer Department is getting a \$22,000 vehicle.

Council Member Donovan pointed out that they are getting two vehicles for \$22,000.00.

Council Member Connolly related that we are talking about intellectual property.

Mayor Dempsey related that the total price for the libraries for Manasquan residents is \$442,000 which is shocking.

Council Member Bossone asked if there is a possibility that the Library budget could be kept flat.

Mrs. Capelli related that the Library Referendum that was passed by the Governing Body in the past stipulated that the Library would receive an annual increase in the amount of the annual CPI. She related that last year they got 1 percent instead of the amount of the CPI.

Council Member Connolly reiterated her motion.

The Municipal Clerk clarified that the motion is to fund the Manasquan Public Library in the amount of \$135,882.00 and was seconded by Council Member Grasso. Motion carried by the following vote: "yes" Council Member Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso. "No" none.

Renee Cullett and Ann Capelli were excused from the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Fran Drew, Virginia Ave related that the Library is the same size as it was since 1915. She related that there is a lot good about reading books. She related that there is terrific library in

JANUARY 16, 2010

Manasquan and a phenomenal library in Wall. She related that it is a huge expense to have both and asked if there is a way to have a fair and unbiased study of the libraries by an independent group. She also pointed out that the Manasquan High School has an excellent library.

Mayor Dempsey related that when the High School put the addition on its building the Library was asked to have a joint library and the Manasquan Public Library choose not to. He noted that the Manasquan Public Library is a private non-profit organization and is not a Borough library. He clarified that the Borough is paying \$306,000 to the County for the residents to use the County Library and the Borough pays \$135,000 to the Manasquan Public (Private) Library.

Mrs. Drew related that if the Manasquan Public Library did not serve all the purposes needed for the residents, the Borough would save \$135,000.

Council Member Connolly related that could only be done by referendum.

Council Member Donovan, Mr. Trengrove, Mayor Dempsey and the Municipal Clerk related that the previous referendum was non-binding.

Council Member Connolly disagreed.

Mayor Dempsey related that someday the residents are going to have to go to the County Library for their books.

The Municipal Clerk noted that the County Library offered to do programs, such as children's programs, in the Borough if the Manasquan Public Library closed.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 p.m., seconded by Council Member Bossone. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Scimeca
Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED 2/22/10