

BUDGET WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2018

A budget workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the Meeting Room, 701 Main Street, Bradley Beach, New Jersey on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Englestad opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for the “Annual Notice”, and posted on the official bulletin board.

ROLL CALL 6:30 pm

Present: Council: Weber, Goldfarb Bonnell, (Cotler arrived at 6:35 pm)
Mayor Engelstad
Borough Attorney Michael DuPont
Gerard Stankewicz, Borough Auditor
Borough Clerk/Administrator, Kelly Barrett
Chief Financial Officer, Gail Krzyzczuk
Deputy Municipal Clerk, Erica Kostyz

Mayor Engelstad stated that we received the figures from the Township of Neptune Sewage Authority and Health Insurance that we had been waiting for to finalize the Sewer Budget. Therefore, we are able to continue with the sewer budget review. Ms. Krzyzczuk, Chief Financial Officer stated that the actual sewer budget for 2018 is less than last year. The decreased sewer budget is a result of a reduction in salaries by \$23K, sewer plant maintenance reduced by \$14,5K, and we no longer need to budget for sewer infrastructure upgrade with the Sewer Rehabilitation Project underway. Mayor Engelstad stated that we need to continue to build our surplus as surplus allows the borough to pay off debt. Mr. Stankiwicz agreed and added that this surplus will allow the borough to pay cash for smaller projects.

ON MOTION	by Goldfarb/Engelstad to approve the Sewer Budget for introduction
ROLL CALL	AYES: Weber, Goldfarb Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
	NAYS: None
	ABSENT: None
	ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Engelstad announced that we would be moving on to discuss the Beach Budget. He stated we did not make the anticipated revenue in 2017 as a result of bad weather during the summer months. Ms. Krzyzczuk referenced the following line items:

#891 – Trash Dump Charges - the expenditure line is not accurate as the November and December bills are not included.

#899 – Insurance Liability mid JIF & #900 WC mid JIF – expenditure lines adjusted to reflect accurate billing.

Councilman Weber wished to ensure that the budgeted amount of \$3,375. is sufficient to cover CAFRA permit fees. Ms. Krzyzczuk responded yes. He also wished to ensure that the dumping fee line item allowing for \$43,500. for trash/recycling was sufficient. Mr. Cofone responded that the fees fluctuate with the market but is comfortable with the amount budgeted.

Ms. Krzyzczuk advised the governing body of Richard Johnson (Chief Lifeguard) request of increases to the lifeguards and gate guards rates for 2018 which total an additional \$28,307.00 over 2017 budget. She was unable to provide a formula used by Mr. Johnson for the increases as they vary and do not reflect a percentage increase. She expressed concerns regarding the increases as they will create a ripple affect with the cashiers requesting larger increases. She recommended the lifeguards current rate increases remain and the gate guard increases by 2% as this will be a savings of \$16,000.in increases from requested \$28,307.

Councilman Cotler stated that the beach staff does a phenomenal job and the borough should allow for appropriate salaries.

Mr. Stankewicz reminded the governing body that if there is a shortfall in beach revenues and cannot be offset by surplus then the shortfall is made up in the current fund. This shortfall also affects your anticipated revenue for the following year.

Councilman Bonnell had questions regarding line items: #934 lifeguard station, (was there a plan in place for the project and had a material list been prepared) # 932-Tag Booths, #924 – Capital Improvement Funds. Ms. Krzyzczuk responded that the #932 is allowing for four tag booth improvements, #924 is a reserve budgeted annually. Ms. Barrett responded in reference to the Lifeguard Station that a drawing had been prepared by an architect that the DPW follow and they prepared a material list. Mr. Cofone and I frequently review the invoices to ensure we are staying within the budget.

Mayor Engelstad requested we take a look at the neighboring town's beach staff rates prior to making a decision of 2018 rates.

Councilman Bonnell stated that he had received questions from residents regarding a police officer and cruiser parked at the North End Trash/Recycling lot. Ms. Barrett responded that a police officer was placed at the lot after an incident occurring at the lot between a DPW employee and two individuals that refused to comply with the rules. This decision was made to place a police officer at the lot to ensure the safety of our employees. People normally comply with a police officer's direction and the police have the ability to request back-up if needed by radio. Also, the police officer is being paid out of the DPW budget at the DPW rate.

Councilman Bonnell stated that it was his understanding that during a meeting held with Excel Environemntal, where Councilman Bonnell, Mr. Cofone and Ms. Barrett had attended an agreement was made to have the DPW staff assist in removing the fill in order at the North End Trash/Recycling Lot. He estimated the removal of historic fill running \$50K. Is there money in the budget to cover the cost of removal of historic fill? Ms. Barrett responded that the borough had a meeting with an environmental company regarding the North End lot but no final decision was made. The entire governing body would make the decision on how to proceed.

She continued that we have requested quotes from three separate environmental companies and we are unsure at this time as to the cost of project to remove the fill. The bough has done all that is required at this time by delineating the area. Councilman Goldfarb stated that he would like the historic fill removed sooner rather than later. Councilman Cotler requested Mr. DuPont review the contract of sale to determine if the seller has any responsibility regarding the historic fill. Mayor Engelstad stated he would like \$60K in the budget as a place holder for the removal of the fill.

Councilman Bonnell referenced an article he read in the paper regarding Judge Thompson (previous Municipal Court Judge of Bradley Beach) and he had spoken to a Monmouth County Assistant Prosecutor, attorneys along with Judge Capotoro (current Municipal Judge of Bradley Beach and their consensus was that the borough was definitely at risk of exposure of reimbursement to the county. He continued, we need to know our exposure level and how we avoid something like this happening in the future. Mr., DuPont responded that he will follow up with the County Prosecutor's office and Assemblyman Arnone, but hasn't been made aware of the county seeking reimbursement. The county conducted a two year investigation of the municipalities involved and there was no conspiracy, Judge Thompson was the only one responsible and he plead guilty stating he took full responsibility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Coan, 612 Third Avenue, stated the parking meters do not create a lot of revenue in comparison to the expense to operate and maintain them. He continued that he was never in favor of the meters as we should have raised the beach fees for the revenue they generate. Councilman Cotler responded that the revenue listed in the beach is half of the revenue generated the other half is listed in the current fund.

Richard Despina 600 Third Avenue, questioned line item #831 Reserve for Uncompensated Absences. Ms. Krzyzyczuk responded line #831 is to cover individuals retiring sick and vacation payouts.

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Goldfarb moved to adjourn

ADJOURN 7:15 PM

KELLY BARRETT
Municipal Clerk