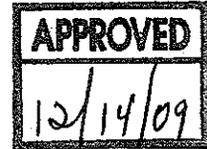


MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
7:00 PM WORK SESSION
Monday, November 9, 2009



Councilman Arthur Zeilner	Present
Councilman Keith Bachmann	Present (9:15 pm)
Councilwoman Randi Duffie	Present (7:09 pm)
Council President Tina DeLucia	Present
Councilwoman Ann Subrizi	Present
Councilman Michael Putrino	Present
Councilman Elect Berner	Present
Mayor Frank DeBari	Present

Also present: S. G. Moscaritolo, Borough Attorney; Christine Demiris, Administrator/Clerk

Mayor DeBari reads the Open Public Meeting and Mission Statements.

Mayor DeBari congratulated Councilman Elect Berner on his recent victory and welcomed him to the Council.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Review of Closed Session Minutes

OPEN SESSION:

1. 2010 Medical Insurance – Art Caughlan/Karen Crotty

The Administrator explained she would be un-encumbering \$100,000 for health insurance. She further explained, the Choice Care cards were fully funded but did not reach 100% utilization and therefore money would be returned to the budget line.

Mr. Caughlan distributed an informational booklet to the Council; however he focused on the financial summary. The summary showed the Borough would have paid \$300,000 more if they had continued with the original insurance program. Mr. Caughlan stated many insurance companies are not quoting due to the national factor at the government level. He noted Oxford was looking for a 14% increase; they are tentatively at 11%. He noted Oxford has mandated funding changes for next year, beginning with out-of-network; he noted they will follow Medicare guidelines as opposed to usual and customary. Mr. Caughlan suggested an insurance subcommittee to go line by line with him and Ms. Crotty before the January renewal. The Borough is now at a calendar year renewal. The Administrator questioned the last column on the list; Ms. Crotty explained that it lists unsubstantiated claims.

Mayor DeBari questioned why certain employees have \$11,000 on the card rather than \$5,000. Ms. Crotty explained it was for catastrophic reasons; Mr. Caughlan noted it was discussed at a previous meeting.

Councilwoman Subrizi, Councilman Putrino and Mayor DeBari volunteered to be members of the insurance subcommittee; the Administrator agreed to sit it on the meetings. The subcommittee will meet one day the week after Thanksgiving between 3:30 and 4:00.

Ms. Crotty mentioned the renewal numbers are listed in section 7.

2. Budget Status/Transfers – Mark Polito, CFO

Mark Polito explained his summary of transfers and reported he has spoken with some of the departments whose budgets are over the limit. The Council discussed the United Water charges being higher than budgeted for; Councilwoman Subrizi requested a copy of the rate increase letter and asked when the rates changed. Mr. Polito suggested the rate change might have been included with the October, November or December bills of the prior year. The Administrator will research and inform the Council of her findings.

3. Budget Committee Recommendations

Councilwoman Subrizi noted the Administrator suggested requesting next years budget requests from the Department Heads at this time. She noted she would also suggest providing the Department Heads with the new budget placemat for better planning. Councilman Zeilner noted columns should be added to include to-date as well as prior year's expenditures. The Administrator noted a line must be added next year to account for vacation buy-back, as per the union contracts. Councilwoman Subrizi, Councilman Putrino and Councilman Zeilner asked to be on the Budget Committee for 2010. Councilman Putrino questioned if the office expense line could be separated into two lines to include the mandatory lease obligations on equipment maintenance. Mr. Polito noted that would not be a problem. The Council agreed to table the discussion on additional recommendations until after hearing from Fire Chief Stormer.

4. Fire Training Site – Fire Chief John Stormer, Fire Marshal Alan Silverman and Ralph Leonardi

Fire Chief John Stormer announced Fletcher Creamer will donate their services (normally \$1,200 per day) to assist the Borough in dismantling the existing site. He noted the plans in the building department are sealed. Chief Stormer mentioned River Edge and Oradell are doing their parts, although not as much as New Milford.

Councilman Putrino believes the improvements to our site should not be held up because of River Edge and Oradell.

Mayor DeBari explained the discussion around the table was the site is currently considered Tri-Boro and the cost should be shared equally; if it were to be New Milford's site alone, then River Edge and Oradell would pay to use it.

Councilman Putrino noted it is considered Tri-Boro, however New Milford has the final say as it is their property.

Fire Marshal Alan Silverman explained it is not considered a Tri-Boro training site, it belongs to New Milford; however the other towns donate money through the Tri-Boro fund. Money from that fund will be used to clean up the site prior to the winter season; two vehicles will need to be moved by the DPW. Mr. Silverman stated the other towns have no control over the site and must fill out paperwork to use it.

Mayor DeBari questioned if there is a site supervisor present when in use by the other towns. Mr. Silverman stated there is a training officer present. Mayor DeBari stated there is always the potential for flooding. Chief Stormer noted during the April 2007 flood, the existing container remained in its location.

Councilman Zeilner noted River Edge and Oradell respond to our fire calls, and allowing them to train at the site would benefit New Milford residents; he stated his opinion, the Borough should get it done as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Duffie referred to the vehicles Mr. Silverman discussed, asking how long must they be retained. Mr. Silverman stated it is a police matter because the Prosecutor's Office required them to be kept in a secure area. Fire Chief Stormer noted the vehicles could be moved to the police firing range, as it is a police matter and it is a more secure location.

Mayor DeBari questioned if the money is in the budget; Councilman Putrino noted it is in the 2009 Capital Budget under Buildings and Grounds. Fire Chief Stormer stated the containers to be purchased will be used. Mayor DeBari stated the containers will be stacked 2 on horizontal, 3 on vertical; he then questioned who will do the welding. Fire Chief Stormer stated Fletcher Creamer will perform the welding.

Councilwoman Duffie noted her concerns over the firing range; she expressed concerns that the training site would be overused by others. Fire Chief Stormer assured her it would be used strictly within the Tri-Boro.

Mayor DeBari requested the Fire Department provide a list of those using the site to the Clerk's Office; keeping the Mayor and Council in the loop.

Mayor DeBari asked upon approval, what is the first step? Fire Chief Stormer noted the first step is to dig the footings and order the containers.

Councilman Zeilner will contact Chief Papapietro regarding the removal of the vehicles. Mayor DeBari noted the Prosecutor uses a warehouse in Hackensack; possibly the vehicles could be stored there.

Councilman Putrino made a motion to move forward with the renovation of the fire training facility. Council President DeLucia seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed.

5. PSE&G Green Solutions – Direct Install Program

The Administrator explained the audit to the Council. She noted the audit is free of charge; the Borough will receive a report highlighting its “green energy” opportunities. She stated if the Borough wishes to move forward with the replacement of units, PSE&G will pay for the replacement up front; the Borough would then be responsible for repaying 20% of the total replacement cost interest free over the next two years. The Administrator asked if the Council wishes her to proceed with the audit, which requires no commitment to move forward with the replacment; the Council unanimously agreed.

6. NJSLOM – Inherently Beneficial Uses

The Administrator noted the Council was in favor of the resolution; however they wished to hear from the Planning and Zoning Boards before finalizing. She stated both Boards are in agreement and endorse the opposing resolution.

ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator noted the backup server was budgeted for this year. She spoke with our representative from Dart Computer Services and advised the Council of his recommendations. He stated the server should be backed up to an offsite location; the Borough would save money on the number of drives needed although, it would incur monthly charges to store offsite.

Councilwoman Subrizi stated this is a good opportunity to share services with the Board of Education; she will confirm whether or not there is an interest on their part.

Mayor DeBari stated the Council should discuss the matter further after the League of Municipalities; after visiting other vendors for possible opportunities.

The Administrator noted the JIF Elected Official Training for 2010 is scheduled in New Milford for the January 11th Work Session; it is open to all member towns. She will RSVP for the Council; if for any reason one cannot attend please let her know.

The Administrator was informed by Gaelic Communications they intend to break ground on the cell tower at the end of November or beginning of December.

The Administrator noted Mary Ann Perrone’ sister passed away suddenly this past weekend; she will make arrangements for flowers to be sent.

The Administrator advised the Council that the Presbyterian Church is looking to have the permit fee waived for the electrical upgrade. The Council discussed the matter and approved the request.

The Administrator referenced the memo from Chief Papapietro regarding the radio system; he has requested time to address the Council. Mayor DeBari advised the Council that next year the County will be ready with the countywide radio program; further noting there are opportunities online to purchase used equipment to hold them over. The Council discussed the matter and requested Chief Papapietro address the radio system at the Council meeting on November 23rd.

COUNCIL

Councilman Putrino noted the training site was maintained by the Fire Department; recently the DPW began cleaning it up, but are unable to continue due to leaf season. After the training site is complete, the site will be placed on the regular rotation for the DPW to clean up; until that time someone will be hired to do so. Councilman Putrino confirmed the money will be taken from the Fire Department budget.

Councilman Putrino discussed the danger of engineered lumber in residential and commercial construction; as it burns faster. River Edge recently passed an ordinance to place a sticker on the meter box if the construction is built with said materials to notify the firefighters. He noted there is no extra cost to the homeowner; however they would not receive a Certificate of Occupancy without said sticker. He provided the Administrator with the referenced ordinance for the review of the Council and the Borough Attorney. The Council requested the matter be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Councilman Putrino questioned the status of the fee ordinance for the Fire Department. Councilwoman Duffie noted it had been adopted; the Administrator will forward a copy to the Fire Marshal.

Councilman Putrino presented the Mayor and Council with a plaque from the Fire Department for 2009.

Councilwoman Subrizi requested a new municipal index be reissued to the Council.

Council Subrizi noted November 11th is Veteran's Day; inviting all to attend the ceremony at 11 a.m. on that day.

Councilman Zeilner attended the police training exercise at the High School last week; an excellent and professional job was done by all involved.

Councilwoman Duffie noted the Health Department will host the H1N1 Flu Clinic for children of New Milford and River Edge only, six months – 18 years of age on November 15th at the Middle School. The Administrator clarified it is not just for child residents of New Milford and River Edge, but for those children attending school in those towns. She further noted the seasonal Flu Clinic held today from 3 pm – 6 pm yielded 150 adults and 80 children.

Council President DeLucia attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and learned the High School has a virtual business they are running in coordination with Bergen Community College. She noted Mayor DeBari gave his State of the Town address at the meeting as well. She further noted she will attend the tour at the water company property; a collaborative discussion with Rutgers.

Mayor DeBari will attend the Community Development meeting this Thursday to discuss the pending applications.

The Administrator reminded the Council of the upcoming holiday work schedules for the Borough Hall employees as per the union contract.

Councilman Putrino reminded those present that commingled recycling pick-up will be the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Subrizi congratulated Councilman Elect Berner on his record and welcomed him to the Council.

Councilman Bachmann noted another group is interested in the water company property, he will not represent the party as their attorney however he felt the Council should be made aware. He will share whatever information he receives with the Council. He stated the interested party learned of the discussions at the July/August Mayor and Council meetings and approached him on it.

Mayor DeBari noted the Ambulance Corps has had a difficult time responding to calls during the day, and Holy Name has been backing up more often. He noted the Ambulance Corps never wanted to admit they were in trouble, which is why Holy Name was brought in.

Councilman Bachmann asked if there is a message for him to give the Ambulance Corps. Mayor DeBari noted if they are in trouble they need to address the Council for help. Councilman Bachmann will express the Council's concerns to the Ambulance Corps.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council President DeLucia made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Zeilner seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

Jody Seifert, Bulger Avenue came forward to address the Council. Ms. Seifert questioned if Mayor DeBari announced the Gloria Dei Thanksgiving Service. Mayor DeBari apologized; he intended to do it tonight; the service is November 22nd at 4 pm. Mayor DeBari will have a proclamation that he gets it from the White House website, and to date it has not been made available.

Councilman Zeilner made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Councilman Putrino seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 2009:221 Closed Session
- 2009:222 Payment of Bills and Vouchers
- 2009:223 Approve redemption of tax sale certificate 08-03 on Block 410 Lot 8 in the amount of \$23,874.95 to Robert U. Del Vecchio, Pension Trust
- 2009:224 Approve 2009-2010 Liquor License Renewal – Blue Ridge Restaurant, Inc. (200 Main)
- 2009:225 Oppose A-3602 and S-1303 Regarding Renewable Energy as “Inherently Beneficial Use”
- 2009:226 Approve 2009 Appropriation Budget Transfers
- 2009:227 Authorize Requests for Qualifications for Professional Services for the Borough of New Milford

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

Mayor DeBari asked the Administrator to elaborate on the resolution for Blue Ridge Restaurant's Liquor License renewal. The Administrator noted the application and fees were filed in a timely manner, however they had not received tax clearance. The Borough recently received said clearance, therefore we are now able to renew the license.

Councilman Bachmann made a motion to approve resolutions 2009:221 through 2009:227. Councilwoman Subrizi seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilwoman Subrizi made a motion to go into closed session. Councilman Putrino seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

1. Review of Closed Session Minutes

At the conclusion of the closed session, Councilman Zeilner made a motion to go into open session. Councilwoman Duffie seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Bachmann made a motion to approve the closed session minutes from the August 24th and October 14th Mayor and Council meetings. Councilwoman Duffie seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

Mayor DeBari announced the Reorganization Meeting will be January 4th at 7 pm; he requested Councilman Elect Berner forward the name of the person who will swear him in to the Administrator.

Councilman Putrino noted the Fire Department swearing in will be January 1st at 2 pm at Fire Company #2.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President DeLucia made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Duffie seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed. Time 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Naumov
Deputy Borough Clerk