

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
6:00 PM WORK SESSION
Monday, April 5, 2010**

Councilman Arthur Zeilner	Present (6:37)
Councilman Keith Bachmann	Present
Councilwoman Randi Duffie	Present
Councilman Howard Berner	Present
Councilwoman Ann Subrizi	Present
Council President Michael Putrino	Present
Mayor Frank DeBari	Present

Also present: S. G. Moscaritolo, Borough Attorney; Christine Demiris, Administrator/Clerk; Steven Wielkocz, Borough Auditor; Mark Polito, CFO (6:30)

Mayor DeBari read the Open Public Meeting and Mission Statements.

OPEN SESSION:

1. Review of Proposed 2010 Municipal Budget

Council President Putrino explained the Finance Committee used the numbers from the auditor's original budget document for the Council's placemats. The numbers will differ because the original did not include Recreation's numbers.

Mr. Wielkocz explained he put the numbers provided by the Finance Committee into the State's format. He noted he used the numbers originally provided by the Police Department, not the final amount. Chief Papapietro budgeted for the full retro amount for 2007, 2008 and 2009 which was previously accounted for and needed to be adjusted to reflect the actual. Even with the adjustments, the Borough is still \$250,000 over the tax levy cap due to the Borough's cut in State aid. The Borough is able to take exception and raise taxes for the amount lost in aid; however the next round of State aid will be cut by double plus an additional 5%. Mr. Wielkocz contacted the State regarding the additional monies left in the garbage and recycling budget from last year; he convinced them to allow the Borough to cancel \$307,000 by resolution and bring it into the 2010 budget as revenue. In doing so, the Borough is able to get the budget under the tax levy cap. The average home valued at \$414,637 will receive an increase of approximately \$250.44; of which \$88 is directly from the loss in State aid.

Mr. Wielkocz advised New Milford is not in the same fiscal conundrum as other municipalities. Mayor DeBari questioned why the current tax increase is double last year's; Mr. Wielkocz advised the Borough is short in surplus, short in revenues and deferred the pension. The increase in the pension is \$567,000, which is over a 4% increase. Councilman Berner questioned if the information is available to be emailed; it would be better for comparison. Councilman Berner referenced the reserve for uncollected taxes. Mr. Wielkocz advised the number in our budget is actually the previous three year's average; which is allowable however a resolution requesting permission must be introduced at the budget introduction hearing.

Mr. Wielkocz advised the cap index is 0%. An ordinance will be introduced next meeting to request the cap index go to 3.5%; although the borough is \$320,000 under the appropriation cap, it can be banked for future years. Mr. Wielkocz will provide the Council the budget information prior to its introduction next week. The budget will be introduced as presented by the finance committee; no cuts in services, no layoffs or furloughs. Mr. Wielkocz explained a tax point equals \$196,500; in New Milford taxes are raised on average \$41.46 per point.

Councilwoman Subrizi referenced the Library's third of a mil, totaling \$680,000; Mr. Wielkocz advised the amount is \$34,000 less than last year. Councilwoman Subrizi noted the Borough is scheduled to be reimbursed \$64,000 from the Library for health benefits; even if we requested half that amount, the Library would still need more than \$680,000.

Mr. Wielkocz left at 7:07 pm; the Administrator will advise him tomorrow if the Council makes any changes to the budget.

Council President Putrino suggested the number remain at the third of a mil number and the Council should decide whether or not to do health insurance payback. Councilwoman Subrizi noted the total cost of running the library is the mil number plus the cost of health insurance; which is a significant amount, and is why the Borough tried phasing it in to show the real cost of the benefit. Council President Putrino suggested changing the amount paid by the Library for health insurance to a percentage of the mil as opposed to a flat amount.

Mayor DeBari stated according to the budget sheet, let's assume the Library spent \$702,000 last year; which includes the \$32,000 paid for health benefits. Their actual spending in 2009 was \$670,000; now it is proposed to give them \$680,000 minus the \$32,000 reimbursement for health benefits; therefore they would only have \$648,000. Mayor DeBari noted if the Library's reimbursement to the Borough is increased every year, eventually the Library will not be able to continue.

Council President Putrino listed the Borough's options, \$0, \$32,000, \$64,000 or 5% of the mil; which this year would equal \$34,000. The Council agreed going forward the Library should reimburse the Borough 5% of the mil.

Mayor DeBari questioned what is included in the police salary and wages line; Councilwoman Subrizi and Council President Putrino reviewed the numbers for the Council. The Council discussed the arbitrator's decision with regards to comp time buyback for the Police Department. The Administrator explained the amount listed in the budget is not to pay down the comp time; it is to cover the overtime needed to allow each officer to take two comp days per month until their comp bank is at 50 hours; as per the arbitrator's decision. After a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to introduce the budget as per the Finance Committee's recommendations.

The Council discussed the proposed budget at length and went line by line for each department.

ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator explained the engineer's response with regards to the water meter at Warren Street Park. United Water no longer allows underground meter boxes, as was the existing; a new above ground enclosure needs to be installed. She further noted the current meter is not functional.

COUNCIL

Councilman Berner questioned the positioning of the bleachers at Warren Street Park; they should face the infield not centerfield.

The Administrator explained the recycling bid options; the bids were favorable and the Borough will be paying less than what it pays currently. The Council decided to go with a 1 year contract with 4 - 1 year options; the Administrator will prepare the resolution for the April 12th Work Session.

Councilman Bachmann questioned the overtime cost for police for the 5K Run; Council President Putrino advised the cost would be \$1,200. Councilman Bachmann questioned why the Borough should be responsible to pay overtime. Council President Putrino noted Chief Papapietro advised his budget will cover the overtime.

Councilman Bachmann made a motion for the Fire Department to pay the police overtime for the 5K run. There was no second to the motion.

Councilman Zeilner noted the town pays the overtime for the fireworks as it is a community event and the 5K should be considered the same.

Councilwoman Duffie understands Councilman Bachmann's point in theory; she suggested seeing where it goes as this is only the first 5K.

Mayor DeBari received a call from Mr. Ruderman, Labor Attorney; he was informed the police will not appeal the arbitration if the Borough agrees to go back to leaving the 13 holidays out of the base pay.

Councilman Bachmann suggested if the Borough Attorney were here, he would note this subject should be discussed in closed as it is litigation.

Councilman Zeilner made a motion to go into closed session. Councilman Bachmann seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Litigation – Police Department

Councilman Zeilner made a motion to go back into open session. Councilman Bachmann seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 2010:98 Cancel Unexpended Balances – 2009 Appropriation Reserves for Garbage and Trash Removal and Recycling Costs *****NOT VOTED ON AT THIS MEETING*****
- 2010:99 Approve Change Order 1 & Final – Warren Street Park *****NOT VOTED ON AT THIS MEETING*****

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The record reflects there was no public comment.

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

The record reflects there was no vote on resolutions at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bachmann made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Berner seconded the motion. All present in favor none opposed. Time 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Naumov
Deputy Borough Clerk