

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 15, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in Council Chambers on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Blazosky
Phil Hynes
Karen Allgeier
David Ferringer
Bill Kutz
Steve Hoak
Clarinda R. Darr

STAFF

Manager Dana Shick
Superintendent Bob Receski
Mayor Richard Beck
Police Chief Jason Brown
Fire Chief Jim Lipuma
Zoning/Code/Health Officer
Emerson Turnbull
Solicitor Jim Dennison
Recorder Christine Gunning

VISITOR/MEDIA

Judi Anthony
Matt Triponey
John Pozza
Mike Battaglia
Tracy Zents

CALL TO ORDER:

President Blazosky called this special meeting of the Borough Council to discuss the 2015 Budget to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

COMMENTS ON THE 2015 BUDGET:

Finance Committee Chairman Phil Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Phil Hynes stated we are getting down to crunch time, and Council has to take action by the end of the year. Finance Committee Chairman Hynes reported we have additional information on the equipment purchases.

Manager Shick – Manager Shick reported Council has four budget options to choose from; Option 1 and Option 2 involve taking out a \$300,000.00 loan, and Option 3 and Option 4 involve taking out a \$450,000.00 loan. Manager Shick stated two snow plows cost \$135,000.00. Manager Shick stated Option 1 includes two snow plows for \$135,000.00, a tractor for \$93,000.00, and a police patrol vehicle for \$35,000.00. Option 2 is if you break it down to one snow plow for \$67,500.00 a tractor that costs \$93,000.00, and a police patrol vehicle that costs \$35,000.00. Manager Shick reported the different options tell you how much money would be remaining out of the loans for us to do various things with.

Finance Committee Chairman Phil Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes stated the additional change to the Budget for review is due to the fact that earlier we thought the equipment for the Street Department would cost \$70,000.00, and we now have legitimate quotes on these purchases so we know exactly what we are talking about. Finance Committee Chairman Hynes asked Council if a tax increase is on the table; if so, the budget would need adjusted accordingly. Finance Committee Chair Hynes reported they had to recreate the budget for the new computer system. Finance Committee Chairman Hynes stated insurance costs are up significantly, and revenues are down.

Chief of Police – Police Chief Jason Brown reported he would like to hire two new officers so we will have two officers on the street every day of the week. Chief Brown stated he would like to get a new police car. Chief Brown stated other than the new vehicle we bought last year, our next newest vehicle is five years old and is pushing 150,000 miles for a front line police car. Chief Brown stated two vehicles they have should be put up for bid. Chief Brown stated we can probably save the Explorer, but the other vehicles will be cost issues. Chief Brown stated we need to maintain the vehicles. Chief Brown stated he had requested computers in the vehicles which would be useful, but are not a necessity. Chief Brown stated video cameras in the police cars are a necessity. Chief Brown stated we currently have three Watch Guard video cameras and only one of them works. Chief Brown stated the Watch Guard cameras we have are three generations older than what is currently on the market, and it would cost over \$22,000.00 to replace them with the current version of the Watch Guard. Chief Brown stated we could buy 3 new Digital Ally 400 Series video cameras for about \$10,000.00.

Superintendent Bob Receski – Superintendent Receski stated the Borough needs 2 trucks, and that the ones they want to replace are ten years old.

President Pro-Tem Allgeier – President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated we need to get on a rotating schedule with expenses.

Finance Committee Chairman Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes reported the Borough hasn't taken out a loan in quite some time, but has been borrowing from reserves. Finance Committee Chairman Hynes stated a lot of things are coming due at the same time.

Manager Shick – Manager Shick stated we keep pulling from reserves and we aren't paying it back.

Finance Committee Chairman Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes asked if Council is willing for a tax increase.

Fire Chief Jim Lipuma – Fire Chief Jim Lipuma stated the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company is asking for a .4 mill tax increase, which would take them to 1.5 mills. Fire Chief Jim Lipuma stated everything costs more, including diesel fuel, insurance, and equipment for firemen. Fire Chief Lipuma stated the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company needs more support financially to continue to keep the Fire Company strong.

Member Hoak – Member Hoak stated the last time the millage changed for the Fire Company was in 2007.

Finance Committee Chairman Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes stated it has been a long time since the Borough had a tax increase.

Manager Shick – Manager Shick stated the Borough could get 2 full-time officers, police cameras, and computers with just a 1 mill tax increase. Manager Shick stated a 1 mill tax increase would cost an average household about \$5.00 extra per month. Manager Shick reported we would still need a \$300,000.00 loan for a snow plow, tractor, and police vehicle.

Finance Committee Chairman Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes suggested increasing parking fines for more revenue.

President Pro-Tem Allgeier – President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated the Borough always drew from reserves to get things done. President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated receiving no CDBG funds makes a difference. President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated Brookville has so many positives, she doesn't want to see the people suffer for a 1 mill tax increase.

President John Blazosky – President Blazosky stated this meeting has muddied the waters.

Finance Committee Chairman Hynes – Finance Committee Chairman Hynes asked who on Council was opposed to a tax increase.

President John Blazosky – President Blazosky asked Manager Shick to come up with different budget options for Council to consider involving different loan amounts and a 1 mill tax increase.

Member Bill Kutz – Member Kutz stated he has a problem voting on a budget with a splash pond/dog park/ice skating rink in it, when we don't know what it will cost.

President Pro-Tem Allgeier – President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated the grant we have now is just for the planning or the survey, it doesn't mean we'll build it. President Pro-Tem Allgeier stated we won't know how much it will cost until we get a plan.

More discussion took place regarding the 2015 Budget.

President John Blazosky – President Blazosky stated Council will have to vote on an option tomorrow.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CLARIFICATION:

John Pozza, a reporter, asked Council about the possibility of leasing Depot Street maintenance to another organization. President Blazosky stated this meeting pertains to the 2015 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Hoak moved to adjourn; seconded by President Pro-Tem Allgeier. Motion carried 7-0 at 8:20 p.m.

Borough Manager