**OROUGH OF WOODCLIFF LAKE**

**SPECIAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA**

**April 1, 2010**

**7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**.

This meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. l975, C. 23l, was posted and two newspapers, The Record and The Ridgewood News were notified.

**ROLL CALL**.

Mayor LaPaglia was present. Council members Bader, Camella, Glaser, Hoffman, Howley and Rosenblatt were present. Attorney Madaio, Administrator Sandve and Borough Clerk Sciara were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor LaPaglia.

**DISCUSSION OF 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.**

Administrator Sandve and Chief Financial Officer Harold Laufeld III presented the 2010 municipal budget to the Council. Administrator Sandve stated that this was a very difficult budget to put together. At the last Finance Committee meeting, Administrator Sandve was asked to cut the administration line by approximately $78,000. The revaluation expenses were over budgeted by $10,000. The sick/reimbursement fund is almost completely funded. There is no State mandate to have this fund fully funded. The Borough could save $78,000 by not adding to this fund this year. The only way this fund would be utilized in its entirety is if every Borough employee left at the same time. The chances of this happening are almost none. This $88,000 would enable the Borough to retain all staff.

Mr. Hoffman asked the status of our surplus. An analysis of surplus was given to all council members.

Administrator Sandve wanted the record to reflect the wonderful job department heads did on keeping budget requests low. The budget presented tonight reflects a 4.7% increase. In this budget there is funding for one new police hire, one new police car rather than the usual two, the elimination of salary for the Deputy OEM coordinator, reduction of number of trees to be planted by the Shade Tree Committee and the scaling down of celebration of events to just Woodcliff Lake Day. The Senior Budget was reduced by $3,000 as the DPW will do the landscaping on the property. The Borough has $600,000 + in the capital account and will be authorizing a fully funded bond ordinance in the near future. No debt will be incurred.

The Borough of Woodcliff Lake is under the allowable State Cap by approximately $250,000. This budget is very conservative but it was the feeling of the CFO Laufeld that next year the State will impose a 2 ½% hard cap.

Mayor LaPaglia stated that our surplus is at a low point. We are also on the cusp of many tax appeals due to the assessed values in commercial and residential values. The Borough’s exposure is particularly high on the commercial side. The regional high school funding formula is based on these assessed values. If the commercial appeal is successful, the school boards do not have to return the taxes we have paid to them. The Borough takes the hit.

Mr. Rosenblatt asked CFO Laufeld for a trend of surplus values among the surrounding municipalities for the last three years.

Administrator Sandve stated that more funds should be put in the police overtime account due to that department’s short staffing. It was agreed to put in $25,000 more in this account in anticipation of increased police overtime.

The Finance Committee recommended that the pool receipts should reflect a 10% increase from last year.

Mr. Rosenblatt suggested that since the Board of Education has had such significant reduction in aid, the Borough should budget $10,000 this year to help defray costs of programs that could be cut. Mr. Bader stated that the school has their own budget which the residents vote on. We are responsible for the Borough budget, not the school budget. Mrs. Howley stated that there is an interlocal agreement with the schools whereas the Borough takes the schools garbage in return for the usage of the gymnasium.

Mr. Bader stated that Administrator Sandve did a great job reducing the administration budget. However, this is not what the Council wanted to see. Mr. Bader and Mr. Camella feel that by underfunding the sick reimbursement fund and using that money to maintain staff is just shifting the dollar. It was the consensus of the Council to put the $88,000 in the tax appeal line account and to reduce staff by two positions. Administrator Sandve and CFO Laufeld stated that this is not shifting the dollar. The sick day reimbursement fund is almost fully funded. All Borough employees will not retire or leave at the same time.

After discussion motion that no employee can be terminated for the proposed 2010 budgetary purposes without Council approval was made by Mr. Rosenblatt, second by Mr. Camella.

**ROLL CALL:**

Introduce: Mr. Rosenblatt

Second: Mr. Camella

Ayes: Mr. Camella, Mr. Glaser, Mrs. Howley, Mr. Rosenblatt

Nays: Mr. Bader, Mr. Hoffman

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The reduction in force issue will be referred back to the Finance Committee for their comments and recommendations.

Discussion began on reduction of Mayor and Council salaries. Mayor LaPaglia stated that he will seek his own legal counsel on whether the Council can vote to reduce his salary. He stated that the salary he currently receives barely pays for this expenses. He is arguing not for a raise but philosophically against a reduction. Mr. Camella stated everyone works very hard for the Borough and all are deserving of the small salary they receive. However, these are tough economic times and the Council should lead by example. He feels that each councilmember should make their own determination on whether to reduce their salary. He does not want to look into other people’s pockets.

Motion to reduce council members salary from $4,500 to $3,000 made by Mr. Rosenblatt, second by Mr. Bader.

**ROLL CALL:**
Introduce: Mr. Rosenblatt

Second: Mr. Bader

Ayes: Mr. Bader, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Howley, Mr. Rosenblatt

Motion to reduce the Mayor’s salary from $6,800 to $5,000 was made by Mr. Bader, second by Mr. Rosenblatt.

**ROLL CALL:**

Introduce: Mr. Bader

Second: Mr. Rosenblatt

Ayes: Mr. Bader, Mr. Camella, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Howley, Mr. Rosenblatt

Nays: Mr. Glaser

Abstain: None

Absent: None

These reductions will be retroactive to January 1, 2010 and will be included in the Salary Ordinance.

After discussion, it was the majority consensus of the Council to revise the 2010 Pool Membership fees as follows:

 Family membership $350.00

 Adult membership $200.00

 Child membership $150.00

 Family membership w/nanny $475.00

 Non-resident family $750.00 (no increase)

 Daily adult pool pass $ 12.00

 Daily adult pool pass after 4 $ 6.00

 Daily pool pass 12 years and over $ 10.00 weekday

 Daily pool pass 12 years and over $ 12.00 weekend

 Daily pool pass 5-12 years $ 5.00 weekday

 Daily pool pass 5-12 years $ 7.00 weekend

 Children 1 year -4 years FREE

**SUMMER CAMP RATES**

Weekly $125.00

3 Week Session $350.00

Full 6 Week Camp $600.00

Mrs. Howley stated that she would include the new fee schedule in the newsletter.

**PUBLIC FORUM.**

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Bader, second by Mr. Camella and approved unanimously by voice call vote.

**Bob Nathin, 17 Hunter Ridg**e stated that the school budget is one year ahead. He suggested that the Mayor and Council give themselves a little cushion ad next year will be worse than this year.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion to adjourn was made by was made by Mr. Glaser, second by Mr. Hoffman and approved unanimously by voice call vote. The time is 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lori Sciara, RMC

Borough Clerk