

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR/COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A Special Meeting of the Borough of Barrington was held on April 8 2014, at 7:04 pm in the Council Room at the Barrington Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert Klaus presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order and made the following statement: "This special meeting is held in compliance with Chapter 231 of the open public meetings act of 1975 and appropriate notice has been given. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Retrospect and Courier Post and also in the main office of the Borough Clerk where notices are currently kept. He then led the salute to the flag of our country.

ROLL CALL: The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council and reports the following:

Ludwig	- absent	Popiolek	- present
Nicholson	- present	Bergeron	- present
Robenolt	- present	DelVecchio	- present

The Mayor announced this is a special work session to review the 2014 Municipal Budget.

CFO Denise Moules reviewed the Budget summary report with Mayor and Council and stated that currently, it reflects an increase of about \$131 to the average homeowner. She did meet with all of the department heads to review their budget requests and was able to explain to them the impact to the taxpayer with some of their requests. Based on those meetings, various reductions were able to be made. She also reduced the fireworks for the contribution from Runnemedede. DCA is allowing municipalities to remove excess snow removal costs and have them outside the levy CAP. With all of these changes, we are now within levy CAP. Councilman DelVecchio asked about the Chief's request for a new officer and Denise explained that he asked for a 15th officer to start in April. That request has been removed. Councilman DelVecchio then asked about firefighter physicals. Terry responded there is a hiccup because Cooper will not certify the respirators. Tim is looking into the legal requirement for respirator certifications. If it is a requirement, then we may not be able to use Cooper for the physicals. Wayne added that Cooper won't sign the form and it is a requirement under State law. Terry added that perhaps we could use Cooper for the physicals and have Interstate Mobile to do the respirator certs. We are still exploring options. Denise said if Cooper is not an option, we are looking at possibly doing half this year and half next year. Funding is available for half of the physicals and is included in the Budget. We no longer have a levy CAP issue based on the changes that have been made. Most of the tax increase is due to lost revenue from tax appeals. The Mayor asked what the average assessment is now and Denise replied \$219,000. Councilman DelVecchio asked if there is any way we can get lower than the \$131. Council President Popiolek responded that our budget is only up by \$22,000. It is an extremely tight budget. The value of the town is significantly less due to the tax appeals and that is the reason for the increase. Terry added that if we had the revenue that was lost due to appeals, you could have had a zero increase and put a lot of money into surplus. Denise confirmed it would have been about \$750,000. Councilman DelVecchio then asked how much the police budget went up. Denise referred the group to page 18 of the budget report and reviewed the line item requests. The overall increase of the police budget is 2.23% which is about \$31,000. The increase is broken down to the CLEO's, overtime, court overtime and contract increases. Bob asked about promotions and Patti responded that it is the sergeant promotion. Bob added that he thinks the court overtime is ridiculous and maybe we should look again at a possible shared service with Runnemedede. Kirk responded that the only way to reduce would be to leave the municipality strapped. We have always been fiscally responsible. The only way to see an actual decrease would be to cut services through layoffs. We are as

tight as we can be. Mayor Klaus said layoffs are the last thing we want to do. Kirk added we have restructured through attrition. We do not want to reduce services to our residents. Kirk added that we need all department heads to get expenditures approved in advance. Terry said we have never used an actual requisition system here but we can implement one. Denise said there is a module through Edmunds to do requisitions. Mayor Klaus asked that we find out how much it would cost to get the module. After some more discussion, it was determined that Terry and Denise will explore some options to implement a purchasing system that can be incorporated into the purchasing manual.

The group thanked Denise and all of the department heads on the great job they did on the budget.

Seeing no more questions, on a motion by Council President Popiolek, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, Resolution 4-2014-40, to Introduce the 2014 Municipal Budget, was approved with the following poll vote: Popiolek-yes; Bergeron-yes; DelVecchio-yes; Nicholson-yes; Robenolt-yes.

On a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Mark Swanson from the Retrospect asked if he was correct that there were not going to be any layoffs but did he hear that someone was not going to be hired? Council President Popiolek responded that there was a request to hire a 15th officer but it is just not feasible. There were no reductions.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilwoman Bergeron, second by Council President Popiolek, the public portion was closed.

With no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson and Council President Popiolek, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

ATTEST: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk