

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BUDGET MEETING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08AM by Council President Roth who read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement as prescribed by law. Notice was advertised in The Record on Friday, February 26, 2016 and notification was sent to the Ridgewood News via email on February 24, 2016 stating this meeting would be held in the Council Chambers of the Richard J. Martel Municipal Offices, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 9:00AM.

Notice of this Meeting is posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board. The Minutes of this Meeting shall be available in the Municipal Clerk's Office once they have been approved by the Township Council.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VETERANS AND THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Moment of Silence was observed for those who are serving and those who served in the military both here in the United States and abroad. It is because of their valor and bravery that we can hold meeting such as these.

Present: Councilmembers Amoroso, Ariemma, DiGiulio, Hermansen, Sbarra, Wong and Roth.

Also present were Business Administrator Brian Campion, Fire Chief Tom Loreto, First Assistant Chief Ken Warnet, Second Assistant Chief Ray Virgens, MEMS Chief Bob Murken, MEMS Treasurer Walt Seaman, MEMS President Bob Klingen and Clerk Assistant Carolyn George.

PUBLIC PORTION

Roth explained that there were no members of the Public attending this Budget Meeting so he dispensed with this Public Portion.

MAHWAH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Loreto gave an overview of the Fire Department's Budget. The Budget rose just under 5% of the Operating Budget. Overall, the Maintenance Budget decreased; there was an added increase to Pager Line Item, Uniform MEMS, and the Capital Budget. Operating Budget remained the same with the exception of Pager and Uniform MEMS.

Roth explained that the Capital Budget for Fire Department would be included within this meeting rather being discussed at the Capital Budget Meeting.

Hermansen extended his thanks to the Fire Chiefs and all of the people who volunteer for the Department.

Hermansen asked why the Professional Services, Line Item #204, did not spend the entire amount last year. Chief Loreto explained that the Hose Testing went well last year so the money was transferred to another account. The Air Testing will start this year because the newer air bottles that were purchased need flow testing this year. Older air bottles will be replaced later this year. Therefore, there will be an increase in spending in this area. Last year, the ladders, pumps, and hoses did receive testing. There was no air bottle testing because that was last completed approximately two years ago.

Roth asked if there is any room to adjust the \$29,000 because historically, the Professional Services Line Item #204 has not exceeded more than \$18,000 in the last five years. Also, Hermansen indicated that the Pagers Line Item #247 exceeded the Budget in 2015, therefore, would it be possible to transfer some of the money from the Professional Services Line Item #204 to the Pagers Line Item? Chief Loreto was in agreement with the transfer of \$5,000 from Professional Services Line Item #204 making the new amount of \$24,000 to Pagers Line Item #247 increasing this Item to \$19,000 because the Pagers will be very active this year and this will keep the Line Item in alignment with usage.

Hermansen asked about the Line Item #211 Uniforms. Chief Loreto explained that the Department is looking to purchase Trench Coats for Chiefs and Officers. These are to be used for inclement and cold weather when the Department needs to be dressed for ceremonies and funerals.

Hermansen asked why Line Item #214, Maintenance Agreements, was only \$4,000 last year but higher in previous years. Chief Loreto explained this item is paying for Code Systems, Reporting, Building Preplans, and the Department did not pay into the Police Department's maintenance of the dispatch software this year.

Hermansen was concerned about the amount used in 2015 of \$7,800 and the \$8,000 budgeted for Line Item #233, Hose Replacement. Chief Loreto explained the cost was down because the hoses were in good shape last year. Hermansen was concerned that the Hose Replacement Line Item may need more funds this year. Roth and Business Administrator agreed that if additional funds are necessary, it could be transferred into this Line Item later in the year.

Wong thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their dedication to the Township.

Wong wondered if the budgeted amount on Equipment, Line Item #202 was enough, because historically the actual amount for 2014 was approximately \$43,000 and 2015 \$46,000 with \$6,000 transferred. Wong asked if Equipment would exceed the amount requested this year. Chief Loreto explained they would not exceed that amount. Roth added that they could reallocate any funds as necessary.

Sbarra asked if the budget is doubling up on Pager Repair in Line Item #203 Radio Upgrade and Line Item #247 Pagers. Chief Loreto explained that it is not doubled. Line Item #203 includes truck radios, portable radios, car radios, headsets, and batteries. It also includes gear cleaning which has a wide range of expenses depending on the Fire calls.

DiGiulio asked if this budget gives the Fire Department everything they need? Chief agreed it does.

DiGiulio also thanked them on behalf of her family for their time, dedication, and extreme training.

Amoroso thanked them for their contribution.

Amoroso asked why there was the need to switch from Fire Department to DPW radios. Chief Loreto explained this has been an issue but during the last fire at the Condos, it became difficult to communicate. The tones were being sent out on the same frequency so the Chief could not give truck orders. Also, there were other towns at the fire that added to the importance of communicating. The Fire Department will begin the transition and reprogramming with the next few weeks.

Ariemma extended her thanks and appreciation to them for their hard work, especially at the Condos. She added that she did not have any questions about the Operating portion of the budget.

Roth thanked both the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. Their volunteerism makes the Township unique with their dedication. Roth explained that even though the Departments have titles like Chiefs and Officers, they also have other jobs and families. Both areas have saved lives and property. Roth explained that all questions have been addressed by the Council in the Operating Budget. Roth added that this budget has good clarity, understanding, and provides the equipment for the Department to work constructively, safely, properly, and not operating at a deficiency due to a budget issue.

Roth began the next section concerning the Capital Budget. Firetrucks are an integral part of the Department and Capital Budget. Discussion will cover what has been allocated, options, and discussion.

Hermansen is there anything in the Mayor's recommendation on the side that he did not give you that you need. Chief Loreto explained their high priority is with Chief vehicles for \$70,000 and a pumper for Squad 2 for \$75,000. There are currently three Chief vehicles: 2011 Tahoe, 2007 Suburban, and a 2008 Suburban. The Fire/Police 2001 Suburban was an old Chief vehicle with approximately 100,000 miles. One Suburban was replaced; and a new Tahoe is arriving in April but will be sent out to be retrofitted. The \$70,000 will replace either the 2007 or the 2008 Suburban. The 2007's mileage is 62,000 miles, and Service costs over the last 2 years were approximately \$9500 and the car still has electrical issues. The 2008's Suburban has mechanical issues, the mileage is 117,000 miles, and Service costs over the last 2 ½ years were approximately

\$3600. The 2001 Suburban received Service costs over the last 2 ½ years were approximately \$9000 for front-end work and brakes.

The \$75,000 is for the Mini-pumper. Last year the Department received \$200,000 to replace the Utility Vehicle from Company 2. At that time, the Department did not factor in the pumper for the truck. The Department has gotten specifications for the pumper. The pumper would be used for calls in the Reservation, for parking garages, calls into other towns for assistance just to name a few type of calls.

Hermansen estimated that the Fire Department has spent \$22,000 in repairs over the last two years. Therefore, Hermansen recommended that \$3,000-\$4,000 would go towards Capital and as the Council reviews the other departments and go through the budget if there is extra money it could be used to offset the second purchase. He also suggested that the mini-pump be purchased first and any extra monies should be added to Capital for the Chiefs vehicles. Fire Department suggested they would find items where they could transfer extra money. Roth explained that this area would be reviewed further once all of the departments have had a chance to review and comment.

Wong asked how many Firetrucks are currently in the fleet. Chief Loreto provided a breakdown of the fleet as follows: 12 Engines, 1 Tower Ladder, 2 - 75' Ladder Trucks, 2 Tankers, 2 Rescue Trucks, 1 Hazmat Truck, 2 Support Vehicles, 1 Air Truck, boats, and 2 Fire/Police vehicles.

Wong remembered there was graph/plan last year that the Fire Department had provided detailing the fleet and its life cycle. Wong asked how many of these vehicles are ending their life cycle. Chief Loreto explained that the average lifespan is 15 years for an engine, and 20 for a tower truck. Engine 117 currently in the Capital budget is a great truck now but before something is damaged, the Department was looking to replace it; Company 1's new for utility emergency vehicle is a backup to Rescue. This will be the reserve engine. The current reserve engine is a 1994 Pierce Engine and the engine has been rebuilt. Wong requested an excel sheet with current information such as year of vehicle and its expected life cycle to be distributed. Chief Loreto has some information and it can be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Sbarra explained there are many requests for the Township and Chief vehicles and pump should definitely be delivered. He suggested that the Council should reserve the right to review the trucks after they have met with other departments.

DiGiulio would like to add air pump and put the Chief vehicles on reserve.

Amoroso asked why the Engine for \$700,000 and another Engine for \$800,000 next year were not in the Capital budget. Business Administrator explained that they looked at the entire Capital budget, overall cost, long-term debt increasing, and they are trying to keep spending down.

Ariemma suggested there might be some money set aside like a placeholder that may be available for transfer to purchase the \$70,000 and \$75,000 pump.

Roth agreed that once all Departments have been reviewed that there might be some changes. In addition, Ariemma asked if there are any Grants available for the purchase of Engines. Business Administrator replied that the Grants from previous years were unsuccessful and they are very competitive.

Wong added if recent repairs and costs could be included in the Excel spreadsheet of the Fleet.

Roth questioned why Rescue Truck 2 was not purchased with a pump because it seems like an afterthought. Chief Loreto explained there are highlighted areas where the pump would be beneficial; however, there are some areas that the Department is undecided. Roth explained that if there is not a unanimous agreement within Fire Department as to its benefits, it might not be top on the list for budget needs.

Chief Loreto explained the list of equipment contained on the Excel sheet. Roth requested for future reference if an additional column could be added to indicate number of hours and mileage on the vehicles.

MAHWAH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (MEMS)

MEMS President thanked the Council for supporting MEMS in all areas. Mahwah Emergency Medical Service Five Year Capital Plan sheet was distributed for Council. Roth requested that the number of hours and mileage on the vehicles be included for future reference.

MEMS Chief reviewed some basic statistics for 2015: 1,483 calls in response to 911 calls of which 919 were on the North side and 564 were on the South side. The average response time from dispatch of call to arrival at scene was 14.7 minutes. The average response time for the nation is 17 minutes. MEMS covered 98% of all calls. The 2% were Mutual Aid calls to other towns such as Ramsey, Franklin Lakes, Wyckoff, etc. MEMS provided 34 Mutual Aid Out calls and received 30 Mutual Aid In calls. Nineteen out of the 30 Mutual Aid In calls were responding to Second Rig calls.

Roth asked how many of the Mutual Aid Out calls were to Ramapo College. MEMS President did not have those numbers. He added MICOM (Valley Hospital) is the primary responder and the Township is the secondary to go on 911 calls to Ramapo College.

Hermansen questioned if there has been any further discussion about the Emergency Services with Ramapo College. The Business Administrator, Mayor, Fire Chief, President of Ramapo College, and the State Fire Official have had conversations surrounding protocols concerning compensation. Business Administrator explained there was a rebate for such instances, but it was repealed in 1984.

MEMS reported that the two Companies have merged to form Mahwah EMS (MEMS). In addition, he provided background information concerning Company 4 donation investment. In

prior years, Company 4 accepted donations and invested them in Mutual Funds. Over time, the Funds grew to \$400,000. The information was not properly reported to the IRS. Company 4 approached a tax attorney that took a couple of years to complete. Now, the matter is all straightened out, the money is now available, and it belongs to Company 4. Company 4 used the money to purchase a rig and donate it to Mahwah MEMS. The new ambulance will be available within March and outfitted April. This will finally close out Mahwah Company #4. The remaining money will be used for the facility. Therefore, MEMS will replace two of the oldest vehicles with the new ones.

Business Administrator explained the Five-Year Capital Plan table distributed to Council. Of the four ambulance vehicles listed, three will be new this year, two of which have been donated and third is being purchased with the \$245,000 from last year's 2015 Capital Budget. Nothing has been budgeted for 2016 Capital Budget. The fourth MEMS 4 rig will be refurbished to almost new this fall. MEMS 3 and 5 are being replaced with the donated rigs mentioned earlier. The MEMS 6 vehicle that the town purchased will be arriving in August.

Business Administrator explained page 100 in further detail. Uniform Allowance, H03-108 is consistent. Miscellaneous, HO3-219, shows a reduction from \$80,000 to \$70,000. This is due to a new statute limiting the donation amount allowed from which a town may contribute a portion of the Volunteer costs without providing certified auditor paperwork.

Business Administrator explained page 55, C06-219 in the Department of Public Works Operating Budget. The \$55,000 is budgeted for Ambulance repairs. MEMS added that the refurbishing of the MEMS 4 rig will provide an additional life of approximately two years.

Hermansen suggested using the \$55,000 refurbishing cost plus the auction price from the three ambulances to purchase a new vehicle.

MEMS explained that the refurbishment of MEMS 4 will include new LED lights, bodywork, inside safety, front-end shock absorbers, alternators and batteries. This preventative maintenance is reliable and would provide the rig and the Township a few more years of service.

DiGiulio asked if Company #1's money is still in court. Business Administrator agreed that Company #1 is still in court.

MEMS President explained that their medium duty International Truck might be given to Fire Department to be used as a Support vehicle for Fire/Police. This vehicle would make a good fit due to the structure of the vehicle.

DiGiulio asked if MEMS is in need of volunteers. MEMS President explained that they are always looking for more volunteers. In addition, 50% of their calls are daytime between Monday and Friday.

Wong asked about MEMS vehicles 1 and 2? MEMS President explained these vehicles do not exist. MEMS 3 is the International large rig. New vehicles coming in will be MEMS 1 and 2. The new vehicles are equipped with airbags in the back to protect the patient and MEMS workers, and it has a longer nose upfront.

MEMS Treasurer indicated the refurbished rig is a backup because there are no airbags in back and it does not have four-wheel drive. The new rigs have a longer nose that is safer for driver.

Roth suggested that they plan to switch rigs around so the rigs do not all have the same mileage and need replacing at the same time.

Wong asked what the life expectancy of these rigs is. MEMS Chief explained they last ten years and sustain a good deal of wear and tear.

Sbarra asked how much fundraising do they receive. MEMS Treasurer stated they receive between \$50,000 to \$55,000 in Mail-In fundraising plus the \$70,000 from the Township. Last year, fundraising was down by 5%.

Hermansen asked what the Township could do to help as a Council. MEMS suggested other fundraising or recruiting would always be helpful.

DiGiulio thought a large advertisement in the local newspaper thanking the MEMS just before their fundraiser.

MEMS Treasurer explained that they would love to develop some type of Corporate support because they go to the corporations many times. It was suggested that the Mayor could get involved to help with Corporate backing. In addition, MEMS is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Roth is the Council Representative for the Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, he will speak to Sharon Rounds of the Chamber of Commerce and suggest some avenues to provide support, money and people.

DiGiulio thanked them for getting new ambulances. DiGiulio suggested information needs to be provided to the residents informing them that MEMS has been redesigned. She also extended her thanks to them for being excellent volunteers and for saving lives.

Amoroso thanked them for their services and asked if they are struggling with any new state requirements. MEMS said protocols change but they adapt. Amoroso also asked if they have recruiting events. MEMS explained there is a Career Day for the High School and they currently have 5-6 High School Student members. In addition, they have 5-6 Ramapo College volunteers.

Ariemma extended thanks from her and her family. Ariemma asked if they attend Mahwah Day. MEMS explained they have a booth there and they must be on standby at event for emergencies.

Roth asked what their total member count is. It is 85-86 members but not all are active. Some are on leave, medical leave, or are Juniors. There are approximately 30 Active members. The number of Active members has increased over the year. Roth asked how it has helped their response rate. MEMS explained that it is better during the day. Roth extended his thank yous for volunteering their time, efforts, and knowledge.

On a motion by Wong, seconded by Amoroso, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathrine G. Coviello, RMC/CMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk