

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK  
280 GODWIN AVENUE  
MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432  
DECEMBER 16, 2021  
6:00 P.M. BUDGET SESSION MINUTES**

**On December 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park conducted a meeting at Borough Hall located at 280 Godwin Avenue. Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website. There was also an option for the public to access the meeting electronically by Toll-Free number 1-866-899-4679 Access Code: 335-352-949.**

**Mayor Shortway** called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting the date as December 16, 2021, and that there will be a 3-minute limit to each individual addressing the Governing Body during the Open Public portion of the meeting.

**SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:** This meeting is being held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, notice having been published according to law with a copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Mayor Shortway</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Damiano</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Kruis</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Sansone</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilwoman DeLuca</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilwoman Peet</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Council President Iannone</b>	<b>Present</b>

**ALSO PRESENT:** Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin, Certified Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon, Police Chief Michael Powderley, and Superintendent of Public Works Matthew Tauber.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**This will be the only Open to the Public portion of the meeting. No further discussions will take place once the Budget portion of the meeting begins.**

There were no members of the public present at this time

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:**

**1. Budget Updates – Department Discussions**

**Police Department** – Chief Michael Powderley communicated the Police Department has conservatively managed to operate in its daily procedures for the last two years. The Chief informed the Mayor and Council, that through grants, his department has been able to purchase body cameras. From the last bond, purchases have been possible for much needed police vehicles and cameras. Furthermore, on the capital portion of the presentation, the State will require each town to purchase updates to their Alcotest machines (measure a person's blood alcohol content), but no timeframe has been given as to when. Although the department has undergone the installation of new lockers for the officers, there are still many areas that need replacing and upgrading: control areas, desk, and workspace to name a few. The crossing guards sustained some fluctuations in its work force but are relatively stable in their numbers. There has been a need to hire special officers, but no classes were offered in 2021. In the meantime, the clerical salary has

decreased due to no nighttime or weekend staff since COVID-19. So far, there has been no need to hire someone but will revisit staffing if a problem arises. The Chief stated certain expenses are recurring and stable, but he wants to be conservative for events and expenses that are uncontrollable. In 2014, it was requested that \$50,000.00 per year be put aside for improvements to the Police Department facility. Chief Powderley believes this was not done. The Police Department area is truly in dire need of improvements.

Councilwoman Peet asked if the Habben Building could serve as the police department. The Chief replied that this was presented previously but due to the residential neighborhood and size of the house, it would not be feasible.

**6:15 P.M.** Chief Powderley exits the meeting.

**Fire Department** – Matthew Tauber, Superintendent/Assistant Chief is asking for \$7,500.00 for replacement that have failed testing and \$20,000.00 for new fire gear to replace expired ones. Due to the increase of members, Mr. Tauber is requesting an increase of \$500.00 for clothing allowance. According to PEOSHA, (Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act) if any fire gear has expired, even if it has never been used in a fire, the equipment must be disposed of. The Fire Department tries to purchase equipment at different times to avoid spending large amounts in one year. The goal, in two to three years, is to replenish and update all necessary equipment. The motors for the garage doors will also need replacement within the next two years, at the Fire House and Department of Public Works approximately \$30,000.00.

Superintendent Matthew Tauber explained the **Department of Public Works** capital portion of the budget will need new fire alarm systems for the Department of Public Works, Fire House, and the Social Hall. The JIF has completed their inspections and recommends these buildings have fire alarms installed. A quote of \$30,000.00 was obtained for the installation.

Capital projects for the **Library** has been estimated for \$30,000.00 as well for various repairs: picture window replacement, new entrance for the children's section, removal or repair of the chimney, and the roof (with a portion subsidized with grant monies).

In regard to the Borough buildings, the **Police Department**, and the **Recreation Barn** need replacement of their doors. A metal frame and door are suggested since the wood is deteriorating.

Laurie O'Hanlon, Chief Financial Officer, wanted to clarify the future purchasing of the eight radios for the Fire Department. Matthew Tauber, Superintendent of Public Works recounted the purchase of these radios. Ms. O'Hanlon updated the Mayor and Council on the usage of Edmunds and the Cloud subject. Phil Scaglione, Information Technology, agreed that the Cloud maybe used to store the Edmunds data.

**6:47 P.M.** Matthew Tauber, Superintendent of Public Works, exits the meeting.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2022.

There being no further business to address, at 6:50 P.M., on a Motion by **Councilwoman Peet**, Seconded by **Councilman Kruis** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, RMC  
Borough Administrator/Clerk