

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK  
280 GODWIN AVENUE  
MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432  
JANUARY 27, 2022**

**6:00 P.M. BUDGET SESSION MINUTES**

**On January 27, 2022 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 January 27, 2022, 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 DeBlasio</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Damiano</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Iannone</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilman Kruis</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Councilwoman DeLuca</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Council President Peet</b>	<b>Present</b>

**ALSO PRESENT:** Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin and Certified Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon.

**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 or on the line at this time.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:**

**1. Budget Updates**

Laurie O'Hanlon, Chief Financial Officer, reported the Borough of Midland Park's budget has been modified and cut where possible. The repayment of the \$4,000,000.00 bond (Ordinance 13-21 Various Public Improvements) began January 1, 2022. This is a large factor in the 2022 Budget. Ms. O'Hanlon discussed the various departments that received budget cuts.

The Governing Body asked Wendy Martin, Borough Administrator/Clerk for the tax percentages of neighboring towns. Ms. Martin responded that the data from the nearby towns are not yet available.

**Councilman Damiano** stated schools are making New Jersey taxes the highest in the country. The

**Councilman** read the Library's annual budget of \$455,000.00. **Councilman Damiano** asked the following: how many people use the Library on a daily basis, what is the cost per person, and can Midland Park have a shared service with other towns? **Councilwoman DeLuca** will suggest to the Friends of the Library to have future fundraisers.

**Councilwoman DeLuca** made known Governor Murphy signed a bill this month that will encourage schools to consolidate and funding will be given for this action. The Assembly and Senate voted unanimously to pass this bill. The **Councilwoman** responded by saying the Library offers more programs than the Borough.

**Council President Peet** and Wendy Martin, Borough Administrator/Clerk remarked that the Borough needs to start a long-term plan. Where does the Borough want to be in five, ten, and fifteen years? **Council President Peet** stated Midland Park needs to explore more shared services with the neighboring towns.

Health benefits are costing \$366,000.00 per year for retirees. The Borough will not see relief from this amount for another twenty-five years according to Laurie O'Hanlon, Certified Financial Officer.

**Councilman Kruis** requested an update on the sale of the Habben house. Wendy Martin, Borough Administrator replied that the Police Department is in the process of their reaccreditation process and are in need of this building for a storage facility. Chief Powderley would like to keep this property. The Governing Body would like more information on the Habben house if the Borough were to sell it.

**Councilman DeBlasio** was concerned about the future and making decisions for the short-term. In emergencies, is the Borough able to keep functioning for its residents? Wendy Martin, Borough Administrator responded that the Borough is able to work remotely and Phil Scaglione, Information Technology, has set up a contingency plan.

The next budget meeting will be scheduled for February 24, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

There being no further business to address, at 6:56 P.M., on a Motion by **Councilman Iannone**, Seconded by **Council President Peet** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, RMC  
Borough Administrator/Clerk