

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
45 WITTE DRIVE
MIDLAND PARK, NJ 07432
January 23, 2020**

6:00 P.M. Budget Session Open Public Meeting Minutes

Mayor Shortway called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting the date as January 23, 2020, 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.

Roll Call:	Mayor Shortway	Present
	Councilman Kamp	Present
	Councilman Iannone	Present
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilman Sansone	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President DeLuca	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Seemon, CFO O'Hanlon and Borough Clerk Martin

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There being no response from the public, at 6:04 the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting

BUDGET DISCUSSION :

1. Budget Updates- Discussion

Administrator Seemon and CFO O'Hanlon previously provided the Governing Body with the updated Capital Budget workbook to be discussed. **Administrator Seemon** gave a brief recap of what has transpired since the last meeting. He noted he has spoken with Bound Counsel and they are in the process of writing out the Note Ordinance. The Note Ordinance will be broadly written to provide for more flexibility. The majority of the State's numbers are in therefore we know the increase is under \$100.00 per assessed household with a 2.8% increase. In closed session we will be discussing salaries, RICE notices have been signed by all employees.

Councilman Kamp thanked the CFO and Administrator for the Capital sheet and inquired what the amount for bonding is and asked for assistance for all the Governing Body relative to reading this spreadsheet and the Note/Bond information.

Administrator Seemon confirmed the amount on the spreadsheet and explained the additional amounts for fees and advertising and the Note details and what is in the Capital budget vs Operating.

Councilman Kamp asked about several line items on the Capital Budget including the Police Department Vehicle, a brief discussion took place among the Council and **Administrator Seemon**. Also discussed was the Hot Box as one of the Capital items.

Councilman Sansone inquired if the State's numbers will change. **CFO O'Hanlon** yes, the numbers can change however they have not in past 5 years.

Councilman Kamp expressed his concerns with a 2.8% increase asked where there is wiggle room without allocating funds from the reserve. **Councilwoman Peet** stated she felt this is a good starting point and agreed this increase needs to be reduced. **Councilman Sansone** stated he did not see any where to reduce.

CFO O'Hanlon stated tax rate itself went up which we have no control over. **Councilman Kamp** stated interest on investments and deposits, one thing I noticed from last year was we had put in \$250,000 last year and realized \$328,000 I believe we can put in that same amount but no more, correct? **CFO O'Hanlon** confirmed we cannot go higher and stated the interest is going down. **Councilman Kamp** noted the Federal Reserve is not lowering rates at this point in time and suggested going up to \$300,000 that gives us another \$22,000. **CFO O'Hanlon** stated this would bring us to 2.5%. **Councilman Kamp** stated this is a more comfortable number.

Administrator Seemon and **Councilman Kamp** briefly discussed paying off the Fire Truck with reserves and how that would impact this year's budget. **Administrator Seemon** advised the Governing Body when the Habben building is sold we can use that money and the property will become taxable. A discussion of what the building is zoned as and what the property is valued at took place.

Councilman Kamp stated it makes the most sense to pay off the truck balance. **Councilman Sansone** inquired what has been put aside for the Fire Truck. A brief discussion relative to the truck took place and **Administrator Seemon** stated the truck could probably wait. **Councilman Kamp** stated this would save us approximal another \$50,000 and would lower the percent increase to about 2%.

Councilman Kruis asked if instead of taking the funds from the reserves could we take it from the funds we already allocated for the future fire truck? Take if from the \$120,000 we have put aside to pay off what we owe for the current truck? The Governing Body agreed this is a good idea. **Councilman Kamp** stated this would be protecting the reserve. **Councilman Sansone** inquired by doing this what percent increase would we be at? **Administrator Seemon** and **CFO O'Hanlon** discussed how different scenarios could work.

A discussion took place relative to a Police Department vehicle. **Councilman Sansone** asked **Councilman Iannone** if the Police Department is looking to purchase a new car? **Councilman Iannone** stated no. **Councilman Kamp** stated we can take it out this years Capital and add it to the Note to spread it out.

CFO O'Hanlon stated with the Police Department Salary line decreasing due to an employee leaving, with this reduction and with all of the cuts/changes discussed we could go down to a 1.5% increase.

Councilman Kamp stated we talked about increase the interest by \$22,000, cutting the Police Officer's salary in half and getting rid of a police car should get us down to the 1.6%-1.5 % increase. **CFO O'Hanlon** stated in dollars that is \$47.43. The Governing Body was pleased.

Administrator Seemon stated salaries will be discussed in closed and those amounts have already been factored into the budget.

Councilman Kruis inquired if Administrator Seemon had a chance to look into solar panel possibilities to cut costs and maybe generate revenue. **Administrator Seemon** stated there are mixed reviews and some questions relative to solar panels and he is working on discussions. **Councilwoman Peet** suggested he speak with the school as they have completed their solar roof project. **Councilman Kruis** stated there are leasing programs that should be researched.

Councilman Kamp inquired about the pension obligation increase. **CFO O’Hanlon** stated this is the difference from last year to this year. **Councilman Kamp** stated it went up \$93,000 and explained to the Governing Body what happened to cause this.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Martin, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk