

BUDGET HEARING, JANUARY 2, 2014

Vice Chairman Gregory Scarlato called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling were present at the opening. Chairman Equils was enroute to the meeting, and Commissioner Eadicicco was absent due to working.

There were zero (0) fire officers and/or firefighters present. And it was noted that there was zero (0) members of the public in attendance when the meeting was called to order.

Vice Chairman Scarlato read the Public Notice for this hearing, as advertised in the Asbury Park Press on Sunday, December 22, 2013, and also posted on two municipal public bulletin boards and on the firehouse bulletin board.

The Clerk also made note that the Annual Notice of Meetings, including this Hearing, was advertised in the Asbury Park Press on Sunday, December 29, 2013, and also posted on two municipal bulleting boards and on the firehouse bulletin board.

The Clerk noted that in the event any residents or taxpayers wished to review the budget, it was available for Public Inspection in the Fire Prevention Bureau Office during business hours for at least the past week. Additionally, he was present in the district office from 10:00 to 12:00 hours on Saturday, December 28, and on Monday, December 30 from 17:30 hours until 19:30 hours, for review of the budget by any interested resident or taxpayer.

He reported that no citizens or taxpayers nor any of the district's firefighters requested to review the budget at the district office.

The Clerk reported the budget document was sent to the Dept of Community Affairs in Trenton. He reported receiving a phone call from Treasurer Stalling, requiring the Clerk to contact the Local Finance Board at the Dept of Community Affairs, Division of Government Services.

He returned to call at 1-609-633-3847 and spoke to Andrea. She stated that there were some corrections needed to the submitted budget and asked if the district auditor had contacted the board. I replied yes that Mr. Osborn did contact us, and that he had forwarded copies of the corrected pages, and the necessary resolutions for correcting and adopting the amended budget.

Ms. Andrea then stated the 2014 Budget was "Conditionally Approved" by the division, pending their receipt of the corrections.

The Clerk also reported he then phoned Mr. Osborn, to confirm to him, the clerk's conversation with the NJ-DCA. Mr. Osborn noted his having a similar conversation with division personnel.

Clerk Kelly then reported the Approved Budget for 2014 reflects a Total Appropriation of \$838,100.00; with Total Revenues of \$838,100.00; of which the amount of \$760,203.00 will be raised by Taxation. He also noted that the 2014 Budget is In Compliance with the Property Tax Levy Cap Law (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.44 et seq.).

Even though the meeting room was empty, except for the elected members of the commission; Chairman Equils went through the formality of asking three (3) times if there were any questions or comments to be made on the Proposed 2013 Budget.

Hearing no response to Chairman Equils' calling; a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Commissioners Kelly and Scarlato. This motion was passed unanimously by the board.

Clerk Kelly then read the following **RESOLUTION #01022014-01: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2014.** (Copy in file)

Explanation: This resolution corrects or amends the dollar amounts Total Revenues and Total Appropriations; by increasing both line items by \$5,000.00.

This Resolution was introduced and seconded by Commissioners Scarlato and Stalling. It was passed unanimously on a Roll Call Vote with Commissioners Equils, Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling voting "AYE." There were zero (0) "NAY" votes. And Commissioner Eadicicco was ABSENT for the vote.

Clerk Kelly the read the following **RESOLUTION #01022014-02: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2014.** (Copy in file)

Explanation: This resolution ADOPTS the Amended Budget for 2014, with a Total Appropriation of \$838,100.00; with Total Revenues of \$838,100.00; of which the amount of \$760,203.00 will be raised by Taxation. It also notes that the 2014 Budget is In Compliance with the Property Tax Levy Cap Law (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.44 et seq.).

This Resolution was introduced and seconded by Commissioners Scarlato and Kelly. It was passed unanimously on a Roll Call Vote with Commissioners Equils, Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling voting "AYE." There were zero (0) "NAY" votes. And Commissioner Eadicicco was ABSENT for the vote.

Chairman Equils asked how the present commissioners might feel about exploring the possibility for the board to purchase a location removed from the firehouse for their offices and meeting place.

While no commissioners expressed any outright opposition to the idea, it was agreed no member knew how to proceed with doing a property purchase. All agreed that there were many questions that would need answers.

It was informally agreed to have the Clerk contact the board's attorney and their auditor, to research the prospects and process for doing such a purchase.

This concluded the business of the Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2014 Budget.

So with no fire officers, firefighters, residents or taxpayers, or other members of the public in the audience; Commissioners Kelly and Stalling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

The meeting closed at 19:56 hours.
Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Kelly
Clerk of the Board

RJK/rjk

01/02/2014