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February 18, 2014

Special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on February 18, 2014.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.  
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Cegelka, Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: None

Chief Financial Officer, Amy Maronpot is also present at this meeting.

We are open for discussion on the 2014 Municipal Budget - The Mayor said this meeting will last for one hour only.

The Clerk said that everyone has a copy of Amys report for the year ending 2013.

The Mayor asked if there is anything that Council would like to add or take away from this budget.

Councilwoman Montes said she would like on Recreation to increase the budget to buy chairs and tables for our parties. Right now we use Dovers equipment but that is only if they aren't using it. I will check prices and get back to you and the next budget meeting.

Councilman Lorenzo said in Clerk O & E there is a big balance, can we cut that down? The Clerk said she doesn't think so. Don't forget that we hired a new person and that money will go to pay her. Amy said we will move the money from O & E to S & W for the Clerk. The amount moving will be \$12,500.

Councilwoman Cegelka said that there will be an increase in social security, unemployment taxes and whatever else taxes or charges there are for the new person. That is correct.

Amy said that we are raising the amount in group insurance from \$88,000 to \$120,000. We went up a big amount. We have 3 on AmeriHealth and 1 on Blue Cross. Can we shop around? Yes. We were shopping around and we were going to go with the State Health Benefits Plan but they were late getting back to us and the enrollment time lapsed. We have our paperwork for late this year ready to go when they open enrollment. We would have to add \$32,000 more to group insurance.

Amy said the only other thing she sees is that if we hire a property maintenance person we will have to include that in the budget as well. What line item would that come out of? Currently we have it coming out of Building & Grounds but if we hire someone new, I would make that a line item by itself. Debbe said that the person is retired from PERS so can't make more than \$15,000 a year.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked if we are talking about raises this evening? Yes. I would like to ask that a 3% raise we given across the board. What was it last year? 3% .

Councilwoman Cheatham said that we had a request from the Planning Board to raise their budget to \$4,000. They had \$1,527.12 left in their budget from last year. The reason for their request was that they have to hire someone to do their minutes. They said \$90 for each set of minutes. Even so the Clerk said at a meeting a month at \$90 per, it comes out to \$1,080 which still leaves money in their budget. Council agreed to keep this line item at \$3,000.

Councilman Glass said that if there is an applicant then some fees are paid out of the applicants escrow. Yes, for the professionals.

The Mayor said at Planning Board you don't have a meeting every month because there isn't business every month. If we need money in this account is there a place to get it from? Amy said you can do a transfer if you need more money.

Councilwoman Cegelka asked the Clerk what Charlene got paid when she typed the minutes? I think it was \$100 a month but Charlene also did the meetings.

What is the Uniform Fire Safety? It is something with Chris Barrella. I am not sure but I will check into it Amy said. Amy did you say you need a new printer? Yes. That would come out of the money in Finance O & E. Councilman Lorenzo asked if it can be linked to the copy machine? Yes, Amy said. The Clerk said that Mark has all the cables and wiring he needs. He just has to find 2 hours to put it all together.

Amy said she didn't add anything more for the website because I am not sure if there are any more costs. Councilwoman Hedgepath said she will talk to the person tomorrow and find out.

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Councilwoman Hedgepath said that when she asked about raises at 3% is that just Mayor and Council or everyone across the board? Everyone.

Councilwoman Cegelka said their health benefits went up 28% isn't that considered a raise? Amy said they are contributing to health benefits. It is based on their salary and the benefit costs. What is the percentage? Amy said it is a tiered 4 year plan that the pension health system put in. Everyone is an individual and it is based on salary. Amy has the tables if anyone wants to review.

Councilwoman Cegelka asked if we have the top of the line in health benefits? No. We are like the middle. What time of plan is it? A POS. Do you have a deductible? Yes. Do you pay copays? Yes.

Councilwoman Montes asked what line item covers what we pay Dover for Fire/EMS services? That would be Fire Aid. There is a big balance but that is because they were late in billing us for the end of the year. There is another \$16,000 coming off that line item. Councilwoman Montes said she thinks Dover is hiring someone else for fire and we will get stuck with those charges.

Councilwoman Cegelka said she saw something in the paper saying that if fire departments have over 50 people they are going to have to provide health benefits for them. How will that affect us? Councilwoman Montes said she heard the same thing. The Clerk asked if that is for fulltime people? Councilwoman Cegelka said she thought it was for everyone. I did not hear that the Clerk said. The Clerk said she thinks that if this is true not only Dover but a lot of towns will be letting fire people go. That would be a big chunk of money to put out on already stressed budgets.

Councilman Glass asked about the town Attorney, trash, Engineer - are they getting raises? The Attorney was just given a 5% raise by the Council. The Engineer gets nothing and trash is a contract so it stays the same. The Clerk said the BOH is going up \$440.00. The Clerk said we applied to Community Development for a grant for a generator. However, we will need to pay some of that costs if we get the grant. If we don't get it - then there is money in Capital where we can pay for it.

Councilwoman Montes asked if someone sues us where would that money come from? Under the Legal O & E line item. I am not aware of anyone suing us. The Clerk said we will have issues and courts with RVRSA. Not because they are suing us but because there is an issue with them and the towns that are in with them. We were told by the Attorney that there will be a lot of meetings and court papers with them.

The Clerk asked Amy about the bills for Leon Hall. He is also the Planning Board Engineer. Where do his bill get paid. What line item? We have always paid him out of our budget. He gets paid out of the Engineering line item in our budget. Anything he does comes out of ours. Unless he does something with a DOT grant, or an applicant comes before the Planning Board - then he gets paid out of the escrow for Planning Board. DOT engineering would come out of the grant we would get from DOT. So if we have a Council meeting and there is a bill in there for Leon Hall attending a Planning Board meeting, does that go back to Planning Board? No. As long as Barrie confirms that he was there we will pay it. If it is professionals attending a meeting then it doesn't need to go to Planning Board. Barrie can confirm their attendance.

The Clerk asked if we do hire a new property maintenance person where will that come out of? I would do a new line item for Property Maintenance. Currently they come out of Construction O & E. Councilwoman Cegelka said that is where Greg Stafford gets paid out of. Now it will be its own line item.

Councilwoman Cegelka asked for Clean Communities don't we have to give that money back if we don't use it? They are lenient. We are trying to use it. There are only certain things that you can use it for. Bill Isselin is trying to figure out other ways we can use the funds. The Clerk asked Amy to ask Bill Isselin if we can use Clean Communities money for buying garbage cans for the residents? We have 300 homes.

There was no other discussion from the Council on the budget at this time.

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - The garbage cans that you talked about could run about \$100 per can. What justifies a 3% raise? It is the workers not the professionals. How did you come up with the 3%? That is what we gave last year. You were also talking about the fire department costs. With this Obamacare anyone that has 50 or more fire people whether they are paid or not - they are considered full time and they will have to pay health care costs for them. Health contributions - you are in the 3rd year. How come the employees are not paying more towards health?

Valerie Williams - Planning Board budget what did you do? Keeping it the same. The reason we asked for more money was to get a digital recording system for the Board. That would eliminate having to pay someone to type minutes. The Mayor said we did not vote on this for planning board. Gramco will come here and give us a new system for \$1,200. State Aid health grant did the Borough apply? Health grants are not to pay the cost of health care for employees. The corrections for the Audit have they ever been corrected? Amy said there is one that will never get corrected and that is segregation of duties. In small towns you just don't have enough people to segregate duties. This years audit has not been done yet but that will show what has been corrected for the previous year. If it is not in this years audit then it has been corrected. Amy said she believes that almost everything was corrected. Planning Board MLUL NJSA 40:55D-1 . That mandates that the Clerk or Planning Board Administrator is responsible for doing the minutes.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Councilwoman Cegelka said under Clerk O & E everything that gets purchased here does it go in that line item? Amy said if she orders a printer it would come out of her O & E. All office supplies come from the Clerks O & E. Everyone uses it. All the paper ads come out of O & E for the Clerk.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:

*Deborah Evans*

Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk