

**BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2016
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:01 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Borough Clerk Reibrich. “The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding annual notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the annual notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk’s office.”

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President White and Council members: Handerhan, Franks, Gunn, Horowitz, and Butler

Also Present: Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee and Borough Administrator/Clerk Lori Reibrich

1. ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM –

Councilman Franks asked Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich if she had researched other municipalities who have opted out of the program.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich stated that she did not have many contacts in the towns that have opted out, but those she spoke to stated that they had a lot of people at their meetings complaining about their tax assessment changes and feels their opt out decisions may have been reactionary.

Mayor Nohilly has been questioning the benefit to opting out. Mayor Nohilly met with Tax Assessor, Alex Worth, and read all the Asbury Park Press articles. The commentary on all the articles seemed like the perception was that there would be a return to the lower tax assessments, if the municipality opted out of the program. That is not the case. Assessments remain the same.

Councilman Franks, Councilman Gunn and Mayor Nohilly discussed Tax Assessor Worth’s presentation at the December 16, 2016 meeting. The presentation was clear and credible. Tax Assessor Worth has nothing to gain by keeping the current program. There is a lot of misunderstanding that assessments will change with a decision to opt out.

Councilman Butler stated that Tax Assessor Worth did a good job with his presentation and would like to see the graphs and information that was not displayed due to technical difficulties with the equipment.

Councilman Handerhan stated that the Borough Tax professionals are not giving the opinion that the Borough should opt out. About 80 properties are being inspected each year. A review of the assessments are done year after year. The Assessor is on top of making adjustments.

Council President White stated that he initially wanted to opt out. This was before some research and speaking to some officials of other municipalities, as well as, many discussions with and the presentation by Tax Assessor Worth. Council President White now believes an ‘opt out’ only returns the Borough to the previous assessment program, where taxpayers end up paying for costly full town evaluations.

Councilman Gunn stated that the current assessment program makes sense in terms of revenue generation and agrees with the fairness of the relative currency vs. the ten year valuations. There is also an expected decrease in appeal costs over time with the current program.

Mayor Nohilly stated that everyone is asking the same questions. “What is the benefit of opting out?” There has been no solid, good argument to do so. The only negative being heard is the scuttlebutt about the company doing the assessment inspections.

Councilman Handerhan stated that the properties who were getting away with being under assessed will not be able to any longer.

Council President White stated that inspecting 20% of the Borough and looking at the data is a benefit. It is unknown what the County or the Board of Education are going to hit the town with to affect the tax rate each year. If the Borough stays true to our market values, it is fair for everyone across the board, when those expenses come up.

Councilman Butler questioned whether the Borough’s market value affects what the County expects from the Borough.

Council had a brief discussion regarding the factors affecting the Borough’s County tax percentages.

Mayor Nohilly stated that there was some time before the “opt out” decision has to be made. If anyone finds good reason to do so, please bring it to the table at a future meeting.

2. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new Business.

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** –

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment. With no public present for comment, Mayor Nohilly closed the floor.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**- With no Council comments, Councilman Franks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Gunn and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilman Handerhan	Councilman Franks	Councilman Gunn	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Butler
Motion to Approve				X			
Motion to Second					X		
Approved		X	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused							

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk