

BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2014
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL

The meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:04 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. The following statement was read by Borough Administrator 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 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, Council members Cohen, Handerman, Miller, Morley, Napoli

Also Present: Borough Administrator Lori Reibrich, Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Esq. , Borough CFO Steve Gallagher and Borough Engineer Peter Avakian

1. 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET –

Council President White stated that the Finance and Administration committee met with CFO Gallagher. After some discussion the committee decided to keep the line item for Allenhurst Fire & First Aid paid man. The line item was reduced to \$10.00 to keep it open. \$25,000 was removed from the line item and moved to capital improvements.

The committee also discussed increasing the capital improvements line item by an additional \$25,000 to be used for the manhole repair project that Councilman Napoli estimated can cost up to \$100,000. The additional \$25,000 increase to capital would increase the tax to residents from \$6 per household to \$75.

Council discussed bonding for the manhole project with CFO Gallagher.

Councilman Napoli questioned how to achieve a zero budget.

CFO Gallagher stated that he does not recommend a zero budget, because all expenses go up. CFO Gallagher stated that you can only have a zero budget for so long than it is going to come around and bite you. For instance, the Borough will have to pay toward a new ambulance next year. If you have a zero budget this year, there will be a bigger jump in next year's increase to make up for it.

Council discussed funding the new ambulance purchase.

Councilman Napoli questioned CFO Gallagher what steps would have to be taken to achieve a zero budget.

CFO Gallagher stated that expenses would have to get cut out of the budget for a zero increase.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the budget was being introduced after it was discussed at the workshop of the last meeting.

Councilman Napoli stated that he feels that Council should go through the budget line by line.

Councilman White stated that the budget was discussed during the workshop meeting where specific line items were discussed, then the committee went back to CFO Gallagher to make changes with Council's input.

Councilman Napoli stated most of the discussion during the workshop centered around the \$24,000 line item for the Allenhurst Fire & First Aid paid man.

Councilman Cohen questioned whether there should be a zero budget.

Councilman White stated that from 2013 to 2014 the increase was just the overall cost of doing business, because costs rise. Health and pension expenses were examined. Appropriations are still the same. The only changes are the costs to operate the line items.

Councilman Napoli stated that the budget used to be \$1.2 million and now it is \$1.8 million.

Mayor Nohilly stated that those figures are from 1989.

Councilman Napoli feels that Council never strives to reduce the budget.

Councilman White stated that there is no major change and the Borough has remained slow and steady.

Mayor Nohilly stated that all of Council has reviewed the budget line by line and the Borough will not be able to get back to the \$1.2 million budget. Mayor Nohilly feels that it does not make sense to make large cuts for a \$6 per household savings to residents.

Councilman Napoli stated that Council should go over the budget line by line together. Councilman Napoli feels this should be done in a budget meeting, as he requested.

Mayor Nohilly stated that each Council member reviews the budget line by line and brings specific questions regarding line items to Council. Mayor Nohilly stated that he does not feel the Council has to go through each line together, if there are no specific questions.

Councilman Napoli questioned what are the differences between the 2013 and 2014 budgets. Councilman Napoli said that he is aware of increases in the Deal Police contract and health insurance costs. Councilman Napoli questioned why the increase to residents was only \$6 with these significant increases.

CFO Gallagher stated that some expenses were decreased. There was a drop in salary and wages. There was also a drop in unemployment insurance of \$10,000. CFO Gallagher also stated that there was a change to the anticipated surplus.

Councilman White stated that there was also an increase in collectables.

Councilman Miller asked questions regarding health insurance costs.

CFO Gallagher spoke to outstanding health insurance invoices and surplus.

Council discussed Planning Board attorney fees.

Councilman White stated that Council can go through the budget line by line and make cuts that would make the budget zero, for instance keep only \$2,800 for park maintenance and not do any improvements to the park this year. Take \$5,000 out of that line item.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the Council is not going to be able to go out and say that they have a flat budget, but it basically is. The total budget only went up \$5,000 with an average \$6 increase per household.

Councilman White agreed, stating that the Borough is run very efficiently.

Councilman Napoli questioned \$90,000 funding for manhole repair, if the decision was made to do the work.

CFO stated that the project would be funded by using \$75,000 from capital improvements and bonding the remaining \$25,000.

Councilman Handerhan asked if there was an option of what is used first.

CFO Gallagher stated that cash is always used first.

2. CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT –

Councilman Cohen brought a request to Council that the Borough purchase dog waste receptacles for public areas of the Borough using Clean Communities Grant funding the Borough has already received.

Council had a discussion regarding the cost of purchase and maintenance, as well as, aesthetics and placement of the receptacles.

Borough Administrator Reibrich stated that there was a balance of \$8,000 that can be used toward community projects.

Borough Administrator Reibrich and Councilman Cohen stated that they wanted to get feedback from the Council before checking for specific pricing. Pricing will be researched. After getting the costs, the number and placement of the receptacles can be decided by Council.

3. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new business. Mayor Nohilly stated that Council members with any new business can give it to Administrator Reibrich for the next meeting.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Liz Brown, 718 Bendermere Avenue, asked questions about the dog waste receptacles.

Councilman Cohen stated that it is a sealed receptacle but details will be researched.

Jodi Heinz, 512 Bridlemere Avenue stated that she agreed with the Borough having these receptacles. She has been in need of an extra bag in the past and had to go back to her car for one. Ms. Heinz also asked if the Borough could let residents know not to put the waste in bags and leave it in the gutter.

With no a further public comment Mayor Nohilly closed public comment.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments, Councilman Napoli made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:46 p.m., seconded by Councilman Handerhan and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilman Miller	Councilman Morley	Councilman Napoli	Councilman Cohen	Councilman Handerhan
Motion to Approve		X					
Motion to Second						X	
Approved		X	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/Recuse							
Absent/Excused							

 Lori Reibrich
 Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk
 Date Approved:_____