

BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2020
7:00 P.M. BOROUGH HALL

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:02 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council members Butler, Watson, Maloney and Fama

Late Arrival: Council President White 7:05pm

Absent: Councilwoman Horowitz

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

1. **2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION** – *Full Council Discussion; CFO Stephen Gallagher present*

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher gave an overview of the 2020 budget.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher stated the local taxation for 2020 is increased just a little bit over \$20,000 from last year. That works out to be about \$55.00 for the average home. The main driver of the increase is the Borough's debt service. The debt service for 2020 is up \$26,000 from last year due to the nature of the Borough's relatively aggressive debt service program. The Borough tries to pay down outstanding notes in a ten-year period by taking one tenth of the principal each year. Aside from the debt service increase, everything else looks pretty good. The police contract is now under a cap of 2% each year and that includes the court services, which was a real win for the community. One of the new things for this year is that the Borough must go to a new reporting system for Uniform Construction Code (UCC) activities. The State decided that they are no longer supporting the UCC computer requirements. Current municipalities that use their UCC system must get their own private vendors. Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich has decided that the Borough is going to need \$3,600 for that. So the \$3,600 increase was put into the construction code other expense line item. At the same time, the UCC fees were pretty strong for the year, so CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher went in and increased the budget for construction code fees to off-set the budget. The tax increase is zero. Significant construction fee revenues were received in 2019, as a result of the fee changes.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher stated that it is expected that State Aid will be status quo.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher stated that \$284,000 of surplus will be used.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher reviewed debt service projections. Debt service is increasing over the previous year by about \$26,000. Most of that increase is because of the principal pay down. There is also a slight increase in interest at 2.75% up from 2% last year. The Borough has a pretty conservative approach to debt.

Council had a brief discussion regarding sewer overflows.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher noted that the assessment increased from \$277,888.00 to \$291,449,000 with the average home going from \$697,000 to \$752,000.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher stated that the budget will be introduced at the March 18, 2020 meeting.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher and Council discussed Capital Budget considerations.

Council President White noted that the Finance Committee has already discussed a road project for Iona Street and depending on the park survey results are considering taking on a park project as well.

Mayor Nohilly stated that after Council gets more data from the survey there will be a next level discussion. If the Borough wants to apply for a matching grant, the submission is done in September for 2021. It would not be something for this year's budget.

Council discussed that a project at the lake be considered part of the open space grant application to be included as various park improvements.

Councilman Butler asked about the timing of the Iona Street road project.

Council discussed the timing of repairs to Scarba Street.

Borough CFO/Tax Collector Gallagher noted that some computer equipment must also be replaced.

2. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Lenny Blasucci, 23 Scarba Street asked questions to Council regarding the responsibility of the resident as it pertains to sewer line maintenance.

Borough Attorney Shaklee and Clerk/Administrator Reibrich both stated that the line from the house to the main is the responsibility of the homeowner.

With no further public present for comment, the floor was closed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments from the Governing Body, Councilwoman Horowitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Watson and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Butler	Councilman Watson	Councilwoman Maloney	Councilman Fama
Motion to Approve			X				
Motion to Second					X		
Approved		X	X	X	X		X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused						X	

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk