

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry called the December 5, 2015 special meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 9:05AM in the Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Henry led a moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the *Observer-Tribune* and was posted on the Phoenix House bulletin board in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Neil Henry

Councilman John Andrews
Councilman John Andrus
Councilman Brad Badal
Councilman David Sharkey
Councilman Stanley Witczak
Council President Veronica Daly

Also present: Susan Giordano, CFO
Richard Merkt, Administrator

CONSENT AGENDA: None

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Andrus asked the Members of Council if they had any questions regarding 2015 expenditures. He then invited Ken O'Brien, DPW Superintendent, to address the Council.

Mr. O'Brien explained that the age of some equipment along with the Mechanic's medical leave resulted in an exceedance of the equipment repairs budget. He added that the price of stone increased and that the bad winter necessitated additional purchases. Mr. O'Brien informed the Council that he is looking to partner with another municipality to use a portable conveyor to load and unload salt. He further confirmed that the amount budgeted for replacement carpet at the MBPD was insufficient to cover costs. It was agreed that the 15K be rolled over to 2016 and additional funds added to ensure sufficient budgeting.

Mr. O'Brien listed his capital requests which included the following:

- Tennis court repairs (Firehouse and Orchard Street courts) – Councilman Andrus requested cost estimates be obtained
- Skidsteer – attachments allow equipment to be used for a variety of tasks
- Sidewalk snow thrower
- Pickup truck with diesel engine for efficient plowing – Mayor Henry inquired as to the availability of FEMA funding
- Borough truck bucket lift attachment for tree trimming

Doug Wright, WRF Superintendent, addressed concerns that the line item for chemicals was exceeded and stated that the cost of the required chemicals has increased significantly. He added that the quality of the products results in a cost savings in the long run. Councilman Andrus requested that other line items be reduced to compensate for the 10K increase in the chemical budget.

Mr. Wright stated that future expenditures will be required in order to secure compliance with DEP requirements regarding copper limitation. He also proposed replacement of the crane and crane body on one of his trucks. It was suggested that Mr. Wright investigate whether it might be more cost-effective to auction off the truck while it still retains value.

Michael Bruin, Fire Chief, appeared with Chris Nelson and Greg Wiatroski to address the Council's request to reduce the Fire Department budget by 3K. Mr. Bruin explained that there were increases in the operating expenses due to shelf life of the equipment and the cost of truck maintenance emergencies.

Discussion continued regarding improvements to the garage doors and replacement of equipment. It was agreed that the Fire Department would research potential vendors and any available utility rebate offers.

Dave Murphy, First Aid Squad, presented his capital requests which included an automatic CPR device and a radio for each ambulance (delivery of new ambulance expected in March). After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Murphy would obtain survival success figures for the CPR device and identify possible storage options for the current ambulance (if ultimately used as an emergency response vehicle).

Pat Libertino, Police Chief, addressed expenditure questions from the Council pertaining to coffee and water purchases as well as vehicle maintenance costs. Further discussion focused on police vehicles and whether a new policy is required to address fees assessed for side jobs and the consumption of gasoline during road detail.

Chief Libertino identified a number of capital needs including the following:

- Install vehicle video equipment
- Replace jail cell cameras
- Replace sally port camera

Discussion followed regarding whether items should be leased or purchased outright.

Citing Officer safety and retirement concerns, Chief Libertino further requested that an additional officer be hired in late 2016/early 2017. Members of the Council suggested that possible shared services with Mendham Township be explored.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing none, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business scheduled for the consideration of the Mayor and Council at this time, on a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:24PM next to convene at the Regular Meeting on December 7, 2015 at 8:00PM at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey 07945.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot G. Kaye

Margot G. Kaye, RMC
Borough Clerk