

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

WORKSHOP MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2004

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, The Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG, SILENT PRAYER, AND ROLL CALL

Black [A] Franklin [P] Otto [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P]

Also present were: Martin Allen, Esq., Administrator/Clerk Laureen B. Fellin, Borough Engineer Richard Moody, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

Councilman Black arrived at 7:20 P.M.

There were no members of the public present.

RESOLUTIONS:

The resolution listed below was adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Franklin and a second by Councilman Mobus, with all voting in favor.

R1SP:04/15/04 Executive Session:

Property Acquisition - Block 3.02 Lot 3
Litigation - MGD Holdings Tax Appeal

A motion to close the Executive Session was made by Councilman Black and second by Councilman Franklin, with all voting in favor.

Mayor Ellis called for a 5 minute recess at 7:55 P.M.

When Mayor Ellis reconvened the meeting at 8:05 P.M., all Council members previously in attendance were still present, and 2 members of the public were present.

DISCUSSION:

Proposed 2004 Municipal Budget

Engineering - Mr. Moody discussed his proposed budget (copy attached), specifically about sewer and water utility improvements, road reconstruction projects, grants, and 4 possible sidewalk projects around the school area. Municipal facility maintenance and improvement projects, such as the bridge at Phillips Field were discussed. It was agreed that the estimated budget of \$1,459,000. would be able to be cut down to \$1,100,000.

Mayor Ellis thanked the Public Works Committee and Richard Moody for paring down their Capital Budget and for taking a proactive approach.

Roads - A proposal of \$189,500. was submitted and included the replacement of the 1991 International truck, a catch basin vac/combo, and various equipment. It was agreed that these were needed.

Buildings and Grounds - \$336,000. was approved for various projects which included \$200,000. for the addition of 2 bays to the Public Works Garage, \$15,300. for the repair and replacement of

the roof at the Watchung Arts Center, and approximately \$110,000. for various municipal building improvements, repairs and maintenance. The entrance bay at the East End Firehouse was also discussed.

Fire Department - \$86,000. was approved for various needs which included Airpacks, W3 Equipment, replacement locks, the East End overhead door, pagers, and the 50% of the cost of a new radio repeater system (the other 50% will be reimbursed by North Plainfield).

Police Department - In addition to 2 new police vehicles, the department was approved for a total of \$87,850. which included computer equipment, in-car video systems, laptops and an ID card creator.

Finance Department - \$3,000. was approved for computer equipment which included a desktop for the TV Station.

Recreation Department - Although a total of \$130,000. was requested, \$21,600. was approved for portable soccer goals, bleacher replacement kits and batting warm-up fences.

Rescue Squad - The squad's requests for a new vehicle was denied, however, their requests for helmets, jumpsuits, and gloves was approved for a total of \$4,343.

Tax Department - \$1,500. for a new computer for the tax collector was approved.

Mayor Ellis said he would like to have the budget introduced on April 22nd and will give these figures to Bill Hance before the Governing Body meets with each department head individually.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public present.

ADJOURNMENT

The regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2004 at 7:30 PM.