

**BOROUGH OF CARROLL VALLEY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
BOROUGH COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
BOROUGH OFFICE**

MINUTES

Council President John J. Van Volkenburgh, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Van Volkenburgh led the Pledge of Allegiance. The attendance was as follows:

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

John J. Van Volkenburgh, Jr., President
Neal Abrams
N. Kenneth Lundberg
William Reinke
Tammy Lytle
Daniel J. Patton, Sr.
Frank Buhrman

BOROUGH OFFICIALS, ETC.

David A. Hazlett, Borough Manager
Gayle R. Marthers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Richard L. Hileman, Police Chief

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Present

Ronald J. Harris, Mayor
Ray Rabenold
Jason Shay
Myron Bowman

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nothing.

2010 Budget Workshop

Mr. Van Volkenburgh asked Mr. Hazlett to provide an overview of the proposed budget. Mr. Hazlett shared a PowerPoint presentation that explained each of the taxation venues and outlined where the residents' dollar is spent in relation to the Borough, County and the School District. Topics such as Earned Income Tax, Mils, Act 32, and trends were addressed in leading to the actually proposed budget for 2010. Mr. Hazlett also pointed out that the state has cut funding for the DARE grant. He expressed that the program is important and therefore remains a budgeted expense; however, there are no grant funds to offset them. Mr. Hazlett stated that the proposed budget includes a 3% salary COLA for employees and health care costs increased by 6.8%. The remaining items of the budget that were briefly outlined by Mr. Hazlett included the energy costs, gasoline and diesel costs, parks & recreation projects and Borough tax bills for property owned but not exempt.

Mr. Hazlett was commended on his presentation and preparation of the Budget Document. All Members expressed appreciation of a job well done.

Consensus of the Members present was to address concerns of those present. Mr. Hazlett reviewed changes in the document due to the fining of typographical and errors of equations. The bottom line on the summary is an unbalanced general fund budget showing a deficit of \$2419.61.

Members expressed great concern over the reduction of a full time police officer in the budget. Chief Hileman agreed that having one less full time officer and utilizing a part-time officer more than the intended

hours is less than optimal. However, he explained the opportunity for a 3-year grant for those departments who have un-funded positions that need to be filled. After much discussion, the Members agreed to leave the position un-funded and un-filled with the understanding that the situation warrants further review if the grant is not received.

The issue of salary increases was discussed in light of the COLA. It was explained that typically the Borough follows the federal guidelines for social security increases providing the same COLA rate to employees that is afforded to those receiving social security benefits. 2010 however, does not see an increase for social security payments. Mr. Hazlett explained that the COLA received in 2009 for social security was 5.8% and the employees received only 2.8%; therefore, the 3% this year offset that deficiency. After much discussion, the consensus was to keep the 3% COLA in place.

The addition of a small pavilion in Carroll Commons was debated and ultimately struck from the budget by the Members present seeing a reduction of \$25,000 in expenditure.

It was asked that the annual contribution for the Adams County SPCA be moved from the contributions/donations category to a contracted service in the police department budget. It was agreed that this agency was providing a service to the Police Department for an agreed upon cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hazlett asked the Members to review the prepared bid tabulation for trash haulers. He explained the process undergone by the County and asked if the Members had questions, concerns or recommendations for the County group. Consensus of Council was to provide the citizens with the most economical choice available.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

*** F. Buhrman moved, K. Lundberg seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:01 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

The Attendance Register is attached hereto, numbered as Page 3 and made a part of the official minutes.

Gayle R. Marthers, Assistant Borough Secretary