

Municipal Building
1200 Mountain Avenue

January 20, 2004

A public meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at the above place on the above date commencing at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor	Ronald S. Dobies
Council President	Michael Hompesch
	Giancarlo Colitti
	Jerry D'Angelo
	Josephine Liana
	Garrett Mulcahy
	Laura Thomasey

Attorney:	George Hendricks
Administrator:	Joseph Manning

Mayor Dobies opened the meeting with the Sunshine Law Statement saying the meeting had been advertised in the Special Meeting Notice of January 15, 2004.

Mayor Dobies opened the meeting stating that this was a special meeting being held to only discuss the budget. Mayor Dobies reported that the MCUA officially notified him that the \$400,000 sewer charges in question will be removed until further testing of the meter is done, which means we only owe approximately \$49,000. Mayor stated that the \$400,000 will be kept in budget because we do not know the final bill and we may have to make payment in 2004.

Mayor Dobies requested that the administrator get more detail on other expenses for OEM and Fire Dept. capital request for Chief's car and OEM carry all truck for Jack Costa. DPW Superintendent also needs more info on request for two vehicles.

Governing Body discussed leasing these vehicles through the Middlesex County Lease Program. The Borough would have to adopt a lease ordinance similar to a bond ordinance. It would make two interest payments and one principal payment per year for the life our obligation. Pre-payment is not allowed. We would also be obligated to pay our pro-rata share of the financing costs and fees. The downside is that the funding is usually not available until June. Administrator needs to notify the MCIA by Jan. 26th. Council President Hompesch would like our auditor, Andy Hodulik, analysis on lease and its effect on taxes.

Councilman Mulcahy stated that he would like this Governing Body not to be reactionary in terms of the budget. He indicated that he would like to see plans for the future to fund capital needs.

Administrator Manning reported that the following departments came back with the cuts they were asked to make at the budget meeting in January: Library, \$3000; Fire Department O/E \$5,000; Police S/W \$3,000. The capital improvement fund was decreased by \$50,000.

Mayor Dobies stated that we need to get a good extraordinary aid application. Mayor Dobies asked that the auditor come in on Jan. 27th and at that time we could discuss what thoughts he might have for a successful application.

Giancarlo Colitti stated that the priority item for the fire department is the turnout gear. Fire department requested sixteen turnout gear @ \$1,600 a piece but did say he spoke to them about getting four this year.

Capital items request down to \$500,000-\$600,000. Finance Committee will meet to go over the capital budget and 2004 current budget on February 3 before the scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. Agenda for February 3rd will only be to discuss the budget. Kevin

Sumner of the Regional Board of Health will is expected to address the 2004 Board of Health budget on January 27th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Anello, RMC
Borough Clerk