

63. Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
of the Borough of Haworth held on March  
25, 2014 at the Municipal Center

Present: Hon. John Dean DeRienzo, Mayor

Councilmembers: Vincent Iacobino  
Glenn Poosikian  
Mary Anne Groh  
Andrew Rosenberg  
Anthony Volpe  
Michael Bain

Mayor DeRienzo called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and upon roll call all members of the Council were present. The Mayor then read the following statement: "This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth. I am informed by the Clerk that adequate public notice has been provided by mailing notice to The Record, by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center, by filing a copy of the notice in the office of the Municipal Clerk and by mailing notice to all persons who requested same and prepaid the cost fixed by the Council."

#### 2014 Municipal Budget

Mrs. Groh explained the purpose of this meeting is to look at certain proposed revisions before the introduction of the budget. She said a great deal of time has been spent on evaluating this budget and thanked the Finance Committee and others for their assistance. She presented a revised budget for discussion this evening, explaining the following:

On Page 11, the 6.03% increase has been reduced to 4.4%; cuts and additions to the budget have been made; there is some increase due to the Borough's assessed value going down and there are new salary figures.

Mrs. Groh asked councilmembers to go back to their portfolios in connection with changes being made in the budget. She noted significant changes and re-classifications of items in various budgets such as removing the budget item for the Fixed Asset Program, the increase in the Tax Assessor budget due to tax appeals going to the Tax Court and cuts made to several budgets including legal and engineering and using Library surplus.

Mrs. Groh then referred to Deferred Charges, an increase in the Judgments line and discussed the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes and its relation to the surplus figure. She discussed past years surplus figures and how much should be used.

Mrs. Groh noted adjustments made in the Capital Budget – deletions and what items could be put off. As to the road program, she suggested deleting Maple Street.

2014 Municipal Budget – cont'd.

Mayor DeRienzo explained the process with the Riverside Cooperative bid for the roads and suggested staying with the \$200,000 in this budget as roads can be deleted or added when the bids are reviewed. A discussion of the conditions of the roads listed was held.

Mayor DeRienzo then referred to a situation with garage doors at the DPW facility.

Mr. Poosikian explained three quotes have been received, the lowest one for \$12,000, noting two of the doors are original doors, they are warped and rotted, the motors are burned out and they need to be replaced.

Mayor DeRienzo noted the original figure of a \$254 per house increase is large, each council person needs to discuss by Friday of this week with their portfolios the adjustments being proposed and also to look at the capital items in the budget with their departments.

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion.

Mr. S. Chval, Woodland Place, noted various budget numbers discussed this evening and stated that he thinks that this year's increase is greater than the prior 10 year cumulative budgets.

Mrs. Groh responded that during the past few years there has been controlled spending and back in 2008 and 2009 was a deferral of pension payments.

Ms. B. Colonna, West View Terrace, referred to Mrs. Groh's previous statement regarding the change in ratables and how much of the increase in the budget is due to that. She noted past years efforts to keep the budget down by the party which is now in charge and hopes they continue past efforts to keep the taxes down.

Mayor DeRienzo referred to other portions in the budget in connection with the tax rate increasing.

Mrs. Groh noted the total budget is less this year than last year. We have decreases appropriations and our total revenues are down due to no FEMA revenue this year.

Ms. Colonna asked then why is there an increase.

Close Meeting to Public

The following resolution was duly offered, seconded and carried at 8:00 PM:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth, as follows:

65. Special Meeting of March 25, 2014

1. That the Governing Body, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, shall exclude the public from the next portion of this meeting in order to discuss matters pertaining to contract negotiations – pending litigation.
2. That the items under discussion in the closed meeting will be disclosed to the public at the conclusion of the matter.

Re-Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:30 PM and as there was no further business to come before the Council adjourned on motion duly offered, seconded and carried.

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Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC  
Clerk-Administrator