

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Present: Carelli, Falkoski, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis
Absent: Astarita**

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

There being no comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to close the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTIONS:

Thereupon, Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) Approval of payment for Blue Diamond Disposal invoice for January in the amount of \$2,500.
- 2) **Resolution No. 24-2011;** Refund of Tax Overpayment – Block 37.04, Lot 2, Robert & Marianne Scerbak, in the amount of \$2,487.46, year 2011, Reason-Duplicate Payment.
- 3) Approval of the release of TCR/Alexan Riverwalk’s escrow funds with the exception of \$50,000 to be retained by Riverdale in Escrow for the paving of William Street and engineering administration and inspections.
- 4) Approval to issue a check for the Riverdale Food Pantry in the amount of \$500.

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carelli, Falkoski, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis
Nays: None
(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 24-A

Mayor Budesheim asked Councilman Falkoski to get feedback from the Fire Department regarding possible introduction of an ordinance providing for service fees to be paid to the Riverdale Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Ordinance No. 05-2011** for review and consideration. (copy e-mailed to governing body with agenda).

Mayor Budesheim stated this ordinance revises the employee sick time policy. It is for review and possible introduction at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) The rebidding of the Street Sweeper is scheduled for March 17th at 11:00. The notice of bids was published in Wednesday, March 2nd edition of the Suburban Trends.
- 2) The hearing of the approval of the placement of clothing bins at the Walmart parking lot applied for by Amvets – 459 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst, NJ is scheduled for March 21, 2011.

There was no discussion on the above items.

2011 BUDGET REVIEW:

Councilman Falkoski asked why we had \$784,108 less in revenue this year. Mayor Budesheim explained that last year we anticipated \$1.325 million in surplus. To be able use that same amount this year we would have had to generate \$2.65 million. We generated roughly \$700,000 so the surplus is down to \$900,000. We don't have the surplus revenue to offset tax increases. The building department was down \$284,000. He explained how new ratables affect surplus and that surplus was used to keep the taxes from increasing. Mayor Budesheim stated that he asked everyone to start working on their budgets and start making cuts and asked Councilman Falkoski what he had come up with in his department.

Councilman Falkoski stated the salary budget for the Police Department is down almost 5% from last year. You showed me \$303,000 and I don't see how you can cut that a great deal without doing something drastic. The County is creating a dispatching service and Pompton Lakes is also willing to do something like that. The budget for dispatcher salaries is \$211,952 and we pay \$10,000 to Butler for 9-1-1 service. If we outsource with the County they estimate a cost of \$175,000 to \$190,000. Pompton Lakes is estimating \$167,800 and it could be negotiable. That would cut \$52,152 and that is something we might want to look at.

Mayor Budesheim stated that we need to decide tonight. This budget has to be introduced at the next Council meeting and we have to decide if we're going to go to referendum.

Councilman Falkoski stated that was the only thing he could see to do anything with. The only thing you could talk about - and I hesitate to do that and wouldn't want to even think about it - is reducing the force but I don't think that's something we should even consider. If we're going to cut someplace I think other places should be looked at, too. Mayor Budesheim stated that's still \$250,000 short. Councilman Falkoski said the only way to do it is the referendum. Mayor Budesheim asked what we do it fails. Councilman Falkoski said it's up to the entire Council to decide and not just him and asked if anyone else had something.

Councilwoman Wetzel brought up cutting equipment and vehicles.

Councilman Loesner stated that we're definitely looking at a pay freeze for the year. Outside of furloughs I don't see any redundancy in personnel. Furloughs save us only about \$15,000 and a pay freeze \$25,000. Operating expenses being frozen saves \$63,000 so we're looking at not even \$100,000.

Mayor Budesheim stated that the Council has to come up with a budget and there's \$487,000 that has to be cut by law. There was discussion regarding cutting salary and expenses in the Fire Department, additional operating expense and other cuts.

2011 BUDGET REVIEW (continued):

Councilman Loesner stated the only two budgets that have at least \$300,000 are the library and police. You have to reduce head count and the people have to know what it means if they vote down the referendum.

Mayor Budesheim stated that you are talking three patrolmen. Police Chief Soules stated that he wished somebody could explain why we're in this fix. This town was doing great and all of sudden something went wrong. Mayor Budesheim stated that Governor Christie forced a 2% cap on us regardless – no exceptions, nothing. It's not our fault and not one person here wants to make the cuts. Councilman Loesner stated that the town is responsible for picking up the garbage, protecting the citizens and making sure their houses don't burn down. To me, everything else is inconsequential.

PBA President Harden asked for the projected date of the layoffs. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that we have to look at the requirement for notice. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that cutting three guys in one department is a lot. Maybe we can find at least one of their salaries in a combination of other departments. We can't ask the Police Department to give up everything and the Fire Department to give up nothing.

Sam Dedio asked if there was any cost to the Borough for the summer concerts. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that there has never been a penny spent out of the town budget for the concerts. Mr. Dedio then stated that anybody on the Council who is receiving health benefits should be informed that they should be taken off. That will save the town at least between \$15,000 and \$20,000. It's not a full-time position for a Councilperson and I think anybody who is on it should come off or pay for it.

Mayor Budesheim announced a 5 minute recess at 8:29 p.m.

Mayor Budesheim called the meeting Back to Order at 8:52 p.m.

Mayor Budesheim stated that he would be working on the budget with Councilman Carelli between now and the next meeting.

Councilman Guis reminded the Council that we have three options on the water line before paving Mead Avenue. His recommendation after speaking again with Engineers Bill Ryden and Paul Darmofalski is to do nothing at this point. Council agreed unanimously with his recommendation.

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to go to referendum to exceed the tax levy cap at the April 27, 2011 election.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that we would have a formal resolution with amounts at the next meeting.

Fire Chief Dam Sturm reported on PEOSH guidelines.

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, RESOLVED that the Council go into closed session to discuss a matter of contract negotiations.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Carelli, Falkoski, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

CLOSED SESSION (continued):

Closed Session being completed, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to open the meeting to the public.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ROLL CALL: Present: Carelli, Falkoski, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis
Absent: Astarita

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk

CLOSED SESSION**MARCH 7, 2011****ROLL CALL:**

Present: Carelli, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel
Absent: Astarita

Mayor Budesheim advised the governing body that he had discussed a form of proposal with a committee of the PBA to address the possibility of not laying off any police personnel to address the budget shortfalls for 2011. The items discussed are as follows:

A.

- Forgo the scheduled 2011 raise.
- In 2012 the raise will be the dollar amount scheduled for 2012, or the dollar amount that was scheduled in 2011, whichever is greater. For instance, the scheduled raises for three patrolmen would be greater in 2011 than in 2012. We would give them the 2011 amount in 2012. In 2013 they would get the 2012 raises.
- If the referendum fails, the raise in 2012 will be based on the raise that was scheduled in 2011; the raise in 2013 will be based on the raise that was scheduled in 2012.
- If the referendum passes the raises will follow the collective bargaining agreement.
- The savings in 2011 will be \$102,342 plus social security and workers comp (\$12,800.00).

B.

- Employees will be subject to the state-mandated contribution towards the cost of health benefits. Currently it is one and one-half percent.
- This provision would remain in effect regardless of the outcome of the referendum.
- Savings \$19,600 in 2011.

C.

- Switch to the new proposed health benefit plan. Savings in 2011 will be \$55,000.
- In 2012 the annual savings would be approximately \$225,000.
- This provision would remain in effect regardless of the outcome of the referendum.