

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

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

**Also present: CFO Ken Sesholtz**

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

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2013 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> OF MAY.**

Mayor Budesheim stated that the June 17, 2013 meeting will be rescheduled to June 19, 2013 in order to have 28 days between the introduction and public hearing of the budget.

Councilman Carelli, Finance Committee Chairman, stated that the Finance Committee met with most of the department heads to obtain their requests and he compiled those numbers into the format that our CFO typically uses. He met with the CFO and some changes were made. I hope we have a consensus as to how to move forward in the best interest of the residents of Riverdale.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated she met with the people she represents to discuss salaries and budgets. I submitted to increase June Carelli's hours from 25 to 30 per week as the facilities she oversees are increasing in productivity and money. We will all benefit by her being there more hours. My second request is not to decrease our recreation salary and wage budget which gets cut every year.

Councilman Falkoski stated that the total general appropriations don't appear much different in the two versions. The Finance Committee's recommendations calculate that the Police Department would have sufficient funds to hire two new patrolmen. The CFO's version removed that from the budget. The other item is the Police operating expense budget was reduced and so was the Fire Department's. As far as I know the law is written that the main concerns for the elected official is the health, safety and welfare of the community and those are what we seem to be cutting here. Recreation and everything else is provided if you can afford it. I cannot support a budget that wouldn't permit us to hire those two policemen and is cutting the O/E of those two departments.

CFO Sesholtz stated that the differences appear small but are large in relation to the cap.

Councilman Carelli stated that he received an email from Councilman Astarita suggesting that we only hire one police officer at this time and see where we stand. His own concern is that we have no idea what is going to happen with the arbitration yet.

Councilman Mastrangelo was concerned that the officer applying for disability may not be leaving.

Mayor Budesheim was concerned that the arbitrator may award the PBA their request to double the amount of time on work related injuries. That would mean the officers on leaves of absence would be back on the books immediately for six months. With the requests made tonight we're looking at an additional \$60,000. Nobody had any cuts – everybody had add-ons.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION (continued):**

Councilman Carelli stated that this budget has adding a Public Works employee as well. As of January you have two highly paid employees that won't be here any longer. CFO Sesholtz stated that might be a better time to make some of these decisions.

Mayor Budesheim stated that if no one can figure out where to cut then he suggests we go with the budget prepared by the CFO.

Councilwoman Wetzel asked the CFO if the \$15,000 in the salary adjustment account was for something specific. Councilman Guis stated it is the previous year's OEM salary that was addressed a few months ago. Councilman Carelli stated that is the money the Mayor was being paid as OEM. Council discussed cutting various line items and how it would affect the budget.

Councilman Carelli stated that there are about five items in this budget that he finds frustrating: Investigator \$9,000, PBA labor attorney up to \$20,000, PEOSH remediation \$7,000, OEM Department \$8,500 plus \$3,600 expenses. This is \$48,000 worth of things that in my opinion shouldn't be there.

Councilwoman Wetzel brought up for discussion the unclassified \$15,000 that was the OEM portion of the salary being paid to the Mayor. Now we have an OEM department that requires \$8,500 plus \$3,000 and that \$15,000 should offset that. We discussed it and were not able to resolve that. The Mayor gets a salary to do the Mayor's job and he is no longer the OEM and we're looking at a line item of \$15,000 that we're continuing to pay him. Councilman Mastrangelo stated that he believed there was only one person who didn't agree back on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The only one who stood firm was Ted and everyone else said he's worth it so let's pay it and we'll resolve it at budget time. Now there's no money and you want to take it back and I don't think that's fair. Do what you want to do but I can tell you right now there's going to be an angry mob here next time. Councilwoman Wetzel stated she didn't think we should be basing things on an angry mob. Councilman Mastrangelo stated that I think when everyone voted last time that's what you did. The only one that stuck to his guns was Ted. Councilwoman Wetzel read from Councilman Astarita's email "I know you said Bill's salary is split in line items, however, I would like to see it straight up in the salary line item." Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she wanted the balance of the \$15,000 not yet paid this year put back into OEM. She also said she voted against having a three person OEM department. Mayor Budesheim told Councilwoman Wetzel that the OEM is funded. You are looking for money for Recreation. Councilman Guis stated that this matter needs to be resolved. Mayor Budesheim reminded everyone no action can be taken tonight as stated in the special meeting notice.

Councilman Carelli stated he would hire a police officer before he would hire a new DPW employee. Councilman Guis stated he also would like to fund one police officer. Councilwoman Wetzel agreed. Councilman Guis stated he would prefer to hire one police officer and one DPW employee and we would need to come up with \$15,000. He proposed we cut \$3,000 Convention Expenses, \$999 out of Contingent, \$1,000 from Shade Tree, \$6,000 from Maintenance of Vehicles, and \$4,000 from Streets and Roads. Councilman Carelli stated that we have to add \$7,000 for PEOSH and \$3,000 for mandatory apparatus testing. Councilman Mastrangelo favored hiring a police officer over giving employees a raise but only if the police overtime would go down.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Dan Sturm asked if they were still thinking about raises for the borough employees because he'd rather give it back and keep it in the budget for the fire department.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued):**

John Conroy questioned the council on the budget and gave his recommendations. One suggestion was to use the savings in overtime to hire a new police officer.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, that the public portion be closed.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Councilman Falkoski stated that Councilman Guis's suggestion is probably the most reasonable. Council decided to check on the \$9,000 retirement payout, reconsider the police overtime number, and hope to hear about the PBA arbitration.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

Adjourned: 9:48 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

Respectfully Submitted:

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